

Vestry Meeting December 10, 2017

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Present: Sue Faulkner, Robert Oliver, Janna Hammett, Bunny Johnson, Rev. Susie Comer, Mike Watson, Paul Wilborn, Mary Black Davis, Bill Adams, Jan Sewell, Carol Brown

Absent: Wade Wooten, Linda Joseph, David Harshaw

Rev. Susie opened the meeting with a prayer for Sundays at 12:00 p.m.

She welcomed the new Vestry members and thanked the outgoing members for their service. The minutes of the November 19, 2017 meeting were read and approved.

Bunny Johnson walked the Vestry through the Treasurer's reports for October and November. In October we had \$28,317.37 in the bank. In November we had \$34,937.12. However we are still spending slightly more each month than we bring in by about \$1000 for the year to date. We have not borrowed from the Strategic Reserve Fund to pay for repairs. In 2016 we had 32 people pledging \$110,710. This year thus far we have 28 people pledging \$103,610. Overall Bunny feels we are financially healthy. Rev. Susie pointed out that more than 30% of our income has been coming in as plate. Bunny suggested that we find someone who can be trained to do the financial report so that there is a backup person with that knowledge. Also, we are running 2013 Quickbooks for Nonprofits with no support. If we are going to stay with that software, we ought to consider an upgrade. If we wish to change software, a new program should be a budget item. Bunny reminded us that our CD is renewable in February and August.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee for Funding the Northeast Corner of Sanctuary: Rev. Susie spoke with John Cole and he believes we should wait on this matter until the tax bill that is being considered in Congress is completed.

Fencing the eastern side of the playground: Paul Wilborn will call Pete Henniger to urge him to take care of this item.

Organist: Rev. Susie reports that the Paula Blaha has committed to starting with us January 14. For now she will be here the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Her plan is to arrive 30 or 40 minutes ahead of the service to run through anything the choir members wish to sing and she will stay after the service to consider plans for her next visit.

NEW BUSINESS

2018 budget: Rev. Susie has spent time with Gregg Westerfield and Bunny Johnson considering how to talk about these numbers without knowing what the total pledges will be. Since we have committed to paying the organist \$3600, we will not consider any other extras at this time. The budget will not be voted on until January. Mike Watson, Gregg Westerfield and Bunny Johnson will work with Rev. Susie to prepare the 2018 budget.

Junior Warden's report: Paul Wilborn has cut down the dead tree on 5th Street.

Senior Warden's report: Robert Oliver has been out of town.

Priest's report: The funeral for Dewey Dobbs was held yesterday. It was attended by 90 people. Rev. Susie received an email from Kathleen Woodby saying that her mother's Columbarium niche is open and they will not be using it. She wants it offered to someone who needs it. Rev. Susie offered it to Dewey's family and they were delighted to accept. Birdi Dabney went home following one night in the hospital for knee replacement. Bobbye Behlau is at home and Rev. Susie has visited her there. She is very frail. Christmas Eve is also the 4th Sunday in Advent. At 10 a.m. we will have one service using Rite I with some music. Christmas Eve services will be at 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. Both will begin ahead of time with carol singing. The church will be closed Christmas Day and offices will be closed that week. Rev. Susie is taking that as a vacation week. December 31 services will be Morning Prayer led by Victor Reed at 8 a.m. and Milly Williams at 10 a.m. Paul Wilborn has agreed to be Senior Warden next year. There is no decision yet on Junior Warden or Scribe.

Appreciation: Rev. Susie wants to express her appreciation for Judy Lansford's getting the sanctuary ready and preparing the reception for Dewey's funeral. She also wants Bunny Johnson to continue as treasurer, or let Bunny be bookkeeper and have a Vestry member be the official Treasurer.

At 1:15 p.m. Rev. Susie closed the meeting with a prayer for our parish.