

St. James Episcopal Church  
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting  
November 16, 2017

The Vestry meeting came to order at 4:30 p.m. Attending were:

Jack Bream  
Crawford Grice  
Ginny Heckel  
Terri Manoogian  
Brian Phillips  
Lynda White

Rev. Mary Demmler  
David Tatum, Treasurer  
Linda Barden, Clerk

### **Approval of Minutes and Reports**

Terri made a motion to adopt by consent the Vestry minutes of October 17 and October 25, the treasurer's monthly report, and the written committee reports not requiring Vestry action. Jack seconded the motion, and it passed.

### **Vestry Reports**

Rector - Mary attempted to clarify the policy for paying for an organist and flowers for funeral services. David said the Memorial Garden funds are to be used only for upkeep of the Memorial Garden. Mary proposed that she revise the wording in the Funeral Planning worksheet to include a \$100 fee for an organist and a recommended donation for flowers.

Mary indicated that she has sensed some anxiety. She would like to foster communication to develop means to determine the sources of this uncertainty and move past it.

Senior Warden - Lynda reported that she and Mary and Ginny attended the Diocesan Council. Lynda thanked Ginny and Nannette for chairing the Stewardship Campaign and acknowledged all the other participants for their part in its success.

Junior Warden-Buildings and Grounds - Jack noted that the door to Mary's office now has a window. Jack related a problem with local traffic using our parking lots to shortcut between Warwoman Road and Rickman Road. Some of the offenders are trucks from Rabun County and the City of Clayton government. He proposed putting up a sign and/or a barrier gate. A decision was made to have Jack talk with county and city administrators about the matter. Jack made a motion to spend up to \$150 to install a barrier gate at the west Warwoman Road entrance to the church property. Terri seconded, and the motion passed.

Treasurer - David distributed copies of the first draft of the 2018 budget. He asked members to review their budget lines and let him know if changes are needed. David and Bill Bomar have worked on the church's Financial Guidelines and Investment Policy. He will ask the Vestry to review and approve the guidelines at the December meeting.

Stewardship - Ginny said 54 pledges were received from those attending the Consecration Sunday service. Pledge cards were mailed to other parishioners on Monday after the service. Her written report of the Stewardship Campaign is included with these minutes.

Parish Life - Crawford said Judy Myers funeral service will be held Saturday with refreshments following. Katherine Grice and Linda Barden have agreed to organize foyers for 2018.

Christian Formation - Terri reported a successful All Hallows Eve party at Mary's. Parishioners have started working on the float for the Rabun County Christmas Parade on December 2.

Worship - Mary distributed copies of a template for the Sunday bulletin that has been reformatted to allow use of the Book of Common Prayer during services. We will begin using the new format during Epiphany.

### **Old Business**

Vestry Elections - The Vestry will present a slate of two for election to the Vestry at the Annual Meeting on December 17. Crawford made a motion to nominate Becky Callahan and Jan Bomar for the slate. Ginny seconded, and the motion carried. Ginny will get bios of the candidates to include in the newsletter. Nominations from the floor will be allowed at the meeting. Lynda will include in her newsletter article the qualifications that parishioners must meet to be eligible for nomination to the Vestry.

The Annual Meeting will be December 17 between the services at 9:15. Coffee and doughnuts will be served. The committee reports will be available online after the first of the year.

Lynda reminded everyone that the last opportunity this year to attend Dismantling Racism training is December 2, 9:00-4:00 at St. Stephen's in Milledgeville.

### **New Business**

Some parishioners have inquired about getting cushions for our pews. Lynda will talk to Bev Mannes about fabric selection. No action was taken.

Mary proposed a Vestry Retreat on February 3, 9:00-3:00. It will include a potluck lunch.

Some ushers are uncomfortable with being responsible in case of an emergency during a church service. Perhaps the VPODs should take over this role. It will be discussed at the Vestry Retreat.

The church's directional signage on Hwy 441 needs to be cleaned up. Ginny will inquire about placing a sign on the Days Inn property.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be December 19 at 4:30 p.m.

Linda Barden

Clerk of the Vestry