

Saint James Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
May 15, 2019

The Vestry meeting came to order at 5:30 p.m. Attending were:

Jan Bomar	Ginny Heckel
Jack Bream	The Reverend Mary Demmler
Becky Callahan	Jim Wallis, Treasurer
Dustin Emhart	Linda Barden, Clerk
Erika Farr	

Approval of Minutes and Reports

The Vestry adopted by consent the minutes of the April 24 meeting, the Treasurer's monthly report, and the written committee reports not requiring Vestry action.

Rector

Mary+ distributed the final copy of the Vestry Covenant for the members to sign.

Senior Warden-Administration

Ginny outlined the actions that have been taken relative to the transition following Mary's departure as our rector. She also reviewed events upcoming this summer including the Flower Festival, Shrimp Boil, Lunch and Learn, and Summer Food for Kids.

Junior Warden - Buildings and Grounds

Jack reported that he is negotiating a new contract for maintenance on the heating and cooling systems.

Community Outreach

Jan reported that the Outreach Committee is awarding another scholarship this year to a deserving evening student at the Mountain Education School. The award is \$300.

Kathy Booker has contacted someone about resetting the rock curbing in the front parking lot. The cost will be approximately \$600 and will come from the Garden Committee budget.

Christian Formation

Erika reported that Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School has a community outreach project for children's literacy in Honduras in early June. She would like to give Saint James parishioners the opportunity to donate money or books toward this project. The books should be for pre-reader to sixth grade and preferably in Spanish and English. She will get the message in the Messenger. Jan suggested that the librarian at St. Philips might be a good resource.

Erika also reported on plans for a youth outing at the Aquarium in Gatlinburg. They will participate in "Sleeping with the Sharks".

Saint James Vestry Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2019

Page 2

Fellowship/Special Events

Becky reported that the day honoring the Sgro Family celebration was wonderfully done. Thanks are due to all who worked on the event chaired by Lynda White.

Finance and Stewardship

Jim said the finances are right on budget, and investments recently bounced back with the stock market. Tim McCabe and Bill Bomar have been asked to complete the Internal Controls Questionnaire and Jay Green, CPA will perform the diocese required procedures.

Mary+ commented on the great job Kathy Booker does with pastoral care. She reported that six children are going to Camp Mikell this summer on one-third scholarships from the church. Three of the children are from outside the church.

New Business

An anonymous donor has offered to donate a gift of \$5,000 for a new piano for the office space for choir rehearsals. The donor also has a source for the piano that is valued at \$2,000-\$4,000. Erika made a motion to approve an expenditure up to \$5,000 for a new piano for choir rehearsal contingent upon the \$5,000 gift. The motion passed and vestry members expressed their gratitude to the anonymous donor for the designated gift to cover the cost of the piano. Appropriate individuals will write a note of thanks.

There has also been an offer to donate a used grand piano for the church. The Vestry agreed not to take action on the offer. A grand piano is too large and would require remodeling the space. Mary+ and Ginny will convey a note of thanks to the individual for the donation offer.

Campus Security - Mary+ noted that it has not been a huge inconvenience to have the church closed when the office is closed. Door lock codes are available for those who want to use the church for prayer and meditation. She also said that one parishioner has expressed concern that we are considered the liberal parish in this community and for that reason we might be unsafe. Vestry members considered some action we might take such as hiring off-duty police or locking all doors except the front during church services. It was recommended the parish hall be locked during the services, as was originally recommended a couple of years ago by the Safe Church Committee. The lower entrance to the church will be locked during services beginning June 2, 2019. There will be a sign on the door directing individuals to the front door.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Vestry will be June 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Linda Barden
Clerk of the Vestry