

The Episcopal Church of St. Andrew - New London

Vestry Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2015, 5 PM

Attending: Martha Barron, Harvey Best, Marni Eaton, Gail Goddard, Richard Haines, Carolyn Lockhart, Jay MacLeod, Theresa Quinn, Nancy Rollins, Peter Ruth, Becky Rylander, Bill Sloan, Kelly Sundberg Seaman, Ellen Yenawine.

Absent: no one

Kelly opened our meeting with a prayer.

Minutes: Harvey added a correction to the minutes of October. Under other business, he asked that he be able to give a buildings and grounds report in November. With that correction, the minutes were approved.

Buildings and Grounds: Harvey reported that he and Chris Heyl had built a wood and glass wind/snow break at the parking lot door. They will also be refurbishing the fence around the garbage cans in the next few weeks.

Treasurer's report: Bill distributed the Ledger to Budget Report covering income and expenses from January to October 2015. He reported that all looks good. Next year's budget is completed. Gail moved, and Carolyn seconded the motion, to accept Bill's report. The motion passed.

Stewardship: There has been no recent bookkeeping, but 2 weeks ago we were \$34,000 shy of the goal. There will be a telethon after Thanksgiving to contact approximately 100 people – people who always pledge but haven't yet, new people, and others, some of whom give every week but do not pledge.

Mission Statement: Kelly led a discussion around the drafted mission statement:

The Episcopal Church of St. Andrew is a joyously inclusive community that **connects:**

- to God in worship;
- to each other in friendship;
- to others in service

With Andrew the fisherman, and all our forebears in faith, we seek (though often fail) to follow Jesus in the way of love.

Comments were about missing the word "learn" although many felt that the word "seek" is more intentional about bringing people towards a goal. Do we need the word "inclusive"? Many felt the last paragraph is important. Could this be a vision statement rather than a mission statement? Often the mission statement is a "tag line" that everyone can quote. This project is now left in Kelly's capable hands.

Worship: Jay explained the plan of moving music at 8AM from a Ford to a Mercedes format. Hopefully members of the choir will sing at 8 as we try the new format during Advent. If you hear feedback, please pass it on. The first and last hymns at 10 AM need to be engaging since the children are there. The feedback so far has been that the hymns we sometimes sing at 8 are not familiar.

Updates:

- The phone and Internet system are up and running with only a few glitches. Bill commended Richard for his negotiating skills.
- The money has been sent to the Haiti Medical Missions of Memphis for the support of Dr. Faison. We have received a thank you note and a report on Dr. Faison's work.
- Sound system and camera: there were 250 people at Elizabeth Otto's funeral, which resulted in an overflow. Our camera was not on site and the speakers did not work well. Preparations will be better next time. Richard is working with Bruce Avery to address the speaker problem.
- Nominating Committee has met. The members are the retiring vestry members, Chuck Thompson, Lin Potter, and Barbara Smith. Chuck will be asking people to join the vestry while Gail asks people to be delegates to the convention.

Other:

Our middle school youth fellowship members made a wonderful presentation at the annual convention in Concord. Their talk included a video of the summer visits with the students from the Phillips Brooks House.

Jay has fliers about the Taize trip from June 23-July 6, 2016. It is for 15-20 year olds and will cost \$2800 per youth with the flight included.

Phillips Brook House overnight dates are set for July 12,13 and July 25,26.

There is a new to us piano in the Parish Hall, kindness of Van Crawford, whose baby grand piano went to David Almond and his piano has come to us.

A Friday night hike for our youth is in the works for December 18th. Details to follow.

Bill Sloan mentioned that it has been a while since we had a potluck dinner and could we be thinking about planning such an event?

Mass on the Mountain will start as soon as the lodge opens.

Our youth have an ecumenical event planned with the Baptist Church. Cindy Johnson is doing work on homelessness with them and they will be sleeping out on the Baptist Church lawn on Dec. 5 and reporting to our church and Sunday School on Dec.6.

Jay is renting the gym at the Outing Club for middle school soccer on Thursday for \$25.

Alice Roberts' daughter, Susan, died suddenly on Sunday night. She lived in Louisville, Kentucky.

Upcoming events:

13 December, 4pm at First Baptist Church: Ecumenical Lessons and Carols service

15 December, 5pm: next vestry meeting

21 December, 12 noon: Ordination of Rev'd Kelly Sunberg Seaman

17 January, 9am: financial meeting between services

19 January, 5pm: vestry meeting

24 January, 9am: annual meeting

After a mutual blessing, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marni Eaton, Clerk