

St. John's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, June 5th 2018

Minutes

In attendance: Father Jim Wheeler, Bill Schwartz, Olive Grant, Terrence Green, Beth Ford, Kathi Bacchi, Sandra Clarke, Chris Mehan, Ann Mavor, Melody Wagstaff, Sharon Guinta

Information

Minutes of May meeting

- Approved

Operations Report (Sharon Guinta)

- Additional Photo beam detector requested to cover unprotected area of the sanctuary, due to limitations of the initial design.
 - See discussion below
- Update on Trumbull Restoration deposit collection. Joining a list of other churches that have had similar issues and have gotten media attention to try and place additional pressure on the company.

Treasures report

- Chris Mehan noted the data was received too late to update for the Vestry, but added that the budget was in deficit from earlier in the year. Based on a quick review of May data there was nothing outstanding to note.

Vestry Quarterly update

- Terence proposed a brief outline of the update planned for the upcoming coffee hour. Primarily a discussion on the increased capital spending needs and notes from the diocesan process for replacing Rev Jim next year.

Faithful future meeting

- Reverend Jim handed out copies of notes from a recent Diocesan sponsored meeting between all of the local Stamford Parishes, to discuss the future of the Episcopal Church in Stamford.
 - The focus is on trying to reconnect the local community to the church
 - All parishes should work together on a strategy

Summer Worship in Eagles Loft

- Reverend Jim proposed holding worship in the Eagles Loft on hot days this summer, to take advantage of the air condition
- All were in favor

- In addition, Rev Sandy introduced a new children's play area which is available in the sanctuary, using the space left available by the summer alter
- The carpeted area would provide a space closer to the worship

Vestry Dinner at Inspirica

- Kathi Bacchi reminded all members of the upcoming Dinner (June 22nd) and allocated responsibilities

CPR, AED training with Stamford EMS

- Kathi Bacchi presented a date and program for training to use St. Johns new AED. She noted;
 - Date would be Saturday the 21st of June
 - Initial group to include the Vestry, Ushers, and Staff
 - The course would not include a certification

Discussion

Thank you Event to Volunteers

- Initial date set by June 15th, but that is not possible at this late date
- Need to assign responsibility to a committee, members volunteered:
 - Danielle, Chris, Beth
- Target date by early Fall 2018
- Further decision to hold a Vestry barbecue in July, with Chris to propose time and host

Maintenance Proposal by Ron Bacchi (Master Roofers)

- A \$2,500 annual maintenance program recommended by Ron
- The Vestry agreed it was a good idea and should be pursued
- Chris noted it was not in the current budget and would have to consider where it should be allocated

Additional Photo beam smoke detector for the sanctuary

- Questions were asked about why the original design was not complete along with suggestions to have the current and proposed design reviewed by a third party to confirm completeness
- Further details requested
- Agreed e-mail follow up would be acceptable to gain approval

When Parishioners go missing

- Sharon explained her experience while she has been home bound due to physical issues
 - Inconsistent approach from the church
- Reverend Sandy discussed his trouble with holding the Eucharistic Minister training between services with poor participation

- He suggestion a new approach to work with the Women’s Guild to introduce the ‘Daughters of the King’
 - Regular meetings with the ministers
 - Home group meetings planned with daughters of the king
- Examples of volunteering exists, such as Bill’s efforts to drive Barbara Cook on Saturdays, and others who also offer rides.
- Proposal for more regular Taize prayer services
 - For prayers of hope
 - Semi weekly
 - Needs to be serious and intense

Ending perpetual flower remembrance

- Rev Jim proposed changing the policy for “perpetual flower remembrance’ that involves noting remembrances on individual days during the year
- The list includes those former members who may not have been affiliated with St. Johns for quite a number of years
- Instead the proposal is to include a list on All Saints day each year
- Proposal was agreed

Renting the Sanctuary to the 7th day Adventists for a day

- There was a brief discussion about a rather unusual request to rent the sanctuary out to another church for a day, and whether there was any issue with the idea.
- All agreed it should be Ok as long as they follow the contractual obligations

Vestry discussion on preparation for the interim period post Rev Jim’s retirement was delayed for future discussion due to time constraint

Other Parish Business & Concerns

- Proposal for August meeting
 - Building Security
 - Announcements
 - Review of paper waste at St. John’s

Closing Prayers