

Highlights of Vestry Meeting - October 11, 2016

Opening & Formation:

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m. with prayer led by Fr. Allison. A quorum was present. A brief time of formation and discussion followed.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Update: DeLotto and Sons regarding roof:

DeLotto is considering filing a suit against All Area Roofing, and this could drag things out much longer. We can't afford to initiate legal action, nor to pay for repairs ourselves.

Vestry Nominations:

Only two have agreed to be nominees so far: Fran Weissing and Sam Trotman. If no others come forward, we will have a vestry of 10. Vestry members are asked to please give nomination forms to potential candidates, so they know what would be expected of them. A question was raised about the rector's right to appoint vestry members. The Canon states that the majority of a vestry has to be chosen by congregational vote. A rector can appoint others to fill empty spaces if necessary.

Proposed 2017 Budget Discussion:

On the current draft of the proposed budget: most income categories, including salary/payroll/pension items have not been increased yet from 2016 amounts; AC & Heat, and Plumbing are reactivated line items; most other expense items have been evaluated and changed in the draft. We are proposing a budget that is inflated from what the congregation has been accustomed to, and as it stands, we are \$28,337.46 behind. When discussing budget with members, please remember that the loan increase has been significant this year. The attention of the congregation needs to be drawn to the fact of the debt's impact on our budget.

The discussion was opened to comments about the draft budget. The major areas of concern right now – major replacements, painting, and paving projects that need to be done are capital expenses and do not appear as budget items. Bill Lynch has lined up speakers for the next 4-6 weeks. They will speak during services about their commitment to St. Mark's and their experience here, why they choose to pledge, etc. The Treasurer will also speak in these upcoming weeks about the numbers and the value of pledging. Fr. Roy asked vestry members to be prepared each week to fill in in case one of the speakers can't be here when scheduled.

At this point, the secretary was asked to leave the meeting, as the vestry discussed staff salaries for 2017. The vestry was given a sheet comparing 2016 salaries with a 3% increase for staff. They voted to allow the 3% increase. When she returned, Fr. Allison left the room. Dale Johnson moved to increase Fr. Roy's base salary by 5% for 2017, keeping in mind that he did not receive an increase in 2016. Jean Jakob seconded the motion carried unanimously.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Nothing to add to written report.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Nothing to add to written report.

COMMISSION REPORTS REVIEW

Overview of progress for each Commission since last meeting:

Nothing to add to written reports.

Changes/Help needed?

None discussed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income, Expenses and Cash Flow

Income for September was up from the past couple months. To date, we are \$11.2K behind in revenue and \$21.9k net behind for the year. We need to continue to watch our expenses and focus on closing the gap toward year end.

Expenses and Cash Flow

Our expenses were over this month by \$10.6k. This is due in large part to our quarterly insurance payment being paid in September of \$7,138, along with paying two months of cleaning and our electricity bill was doubled. As for cash flow, our Operating Account has a balance of \$38,286.33. We need to keep our expenses down and move toward a strong year end closing with giving. We do anticipate revenues to pick up towards the end of the year, but at the same time we will have to manage our day to day expenses closely while also accounting for any unplanned but necessary maintenance expenses.

FY 2017 Budget Prep

Enclosed is our 2017 Draft Budget. Thank you to everyone for getting your budget into the office on time.

Approval of Financial Reports:

Anthony Grant moved to accept the September financial reports. The motion was seconded by Sandi Gaudet and the motion carried unanimously.

Conclusion:

The discussion was opened to reflections and final comments. Dale Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Sandi Gaudet seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:17 p.m. A closing prayer was led by Fr. Roy.

Jillian Ricardo, Secretary

Commission Reports, October 2016

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Dale Johnson

The month of September was busy as always. Fr. Roy took a week off for his continuing education. He wasn't really "off" as he served as the spiritual advisor at the Icon workshop at Dayspring. We were doubly blessed at this workshop as Marcia Allison was the instructor and two of our sisters in Christ, Charlene Adams and Laura Jeanne Johnson were in attendance. The workshop was such a success that Bishop Smith has added it to the Diocesan calendar for next year. We are truly blessed by the positive presence of St Mark's and its leadership within the diocese.

We were also well represented at the most recent Cursillo weekend. Fr. Roy was the spiritual director and our laypeople who served were: Marcia Allison, Anna Ashworth and David Schutte. May God bless all of you for this extra service in His name.

As we approach October Fr. Roy and the Executive Committee from the Vestry began a very thoughtful and inclusive evaluation and planning of the 2017 budget. Please keep us in your prayers as we are striving to present a realistic budget that includes not just the maintenance of God's home but also the outreach of the church (its people) into the community.

I want to share an event I witnessed one Sunday. It seems that the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sunday School program leaders have been wanting some small wooden figures of people and/or cultures of the world. These were to be used to show the children how the love of Jesus spreads across

the world. On this one Sunday as I was walking out of church a sister in Christ handed a plastic bag filled with these long hoped for figures to the Catechesis leader. Such joy and love was shared in that brief moment. I smiled, said a thank you to Jesus, and shared the beauty of these wooden figures. To me that is what St. Mark's is all about, sharing God's love in all ways all the time. Indeed God is good all the time, all the time God is good.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Jean Jakob

We will have the last workday of the year October 15th. It is a very busy day with many of our vestry and clergy out of town for Diocesan Convention. Hopefully, we will be able to get the closet in the Atrium cleared and the sound equipment stored in an orderly manner.

I should be able to give you an update by meeting time of the cost of the repairing the duct. I plan to put a maintenance agreement cost in the budget for 2017. Having the AC units maintained should add some life to the units. This will also give us access to repairs on holidays and weekends. I will leave a Junior Warden book with approved maintenance companies for AC's, electrical, etc. These will be companies that are licensed, bonded and approved by the Vestry.

ADULT EDUCATION – Dale Johnson

Adult Sunday School: After 2 weeks of teaching by Fr. Roy on the Book of Common Prayer those in attendance became much more aware of the history of the Book of Common Prayer. We learned how people who were instrumental in writing it lost their lives, were persecuted, and yet persisted for many years all for us to have a beautiful book of prayers to use daily. What a blessing!

This is being followed by a stimulating discussion on, Genesis and Exodus as found in poetry. The poetic form that is found in the scriptures is explored as well as poetry written in a more modern era. It is exciting to encounter how the scriptures have impacted the literary world and opened up new and insightful ways to reveal the love of God. Love continues to be the most powerful word in all genre and also in all walks of life. God told us to LOVE.

Next month we will welcome Michael Parise once again. Come join us it is a beautiful way to enhance your Sunday experience.

Monday Morning Bible Study: Under the leadership of Sherre Henley and Kathleen Amritt, this group continues to study the gospel of St. John. Joining in with this study is always open. Please come and join us.

Book Club: Lead by Kathy Gibbons these avid readers read a book a month and then discuss it on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the library. Drop in and join a discussion even if you haven't read the book. Reading for pleasure is fun, why not try it?

COMMUNICATIONS – Latrice Markison

Submitted 2017 budget items for review.

Researched and submitted material to the vestry regarding purchasing and storing church name tags. Provided flyers and postcards to vendors scheduled to participate in the pet blessing/St. Francis celebration on 10/8.

ENDOWMENT – Bill Lynch

The Endowment Committee met in September. I will be forwarding the 2nd quarter financials to you prior to our upcoming meeting.

FELLOWSHIP – John Newton

Our Annual Mexican Fiesta was held on September 10th and was a huge success. Over 60 members (plus) participated which created no left overs at the end. Victor and Mary Alice Lopez did an outstanding job and the entertainment was well received.

The Breakfast Ministry has started "Casserole" Sunday which plan for every second Sunday. Various breakfast casseroles will served to include biscuits and fruit. We have a handful of volunteers to make the casseroles and we could use a couple more.

MEMBERSHIP & GROWTH – Bill Lynch

Name tags - a budget for new name tags and their display has been set. I have had some input on tags from various people. Suggestions for tags have covered several attributes. There are a number of options to consider with regard to display. I plan frame out our choices more clearly this month and communicate with you (the Vestry) prior to the November meeting.

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM – Marva Duncan & Anna Ashworth

Outreach for the “Our Little Roses mission”

An approval for \$500.00 from the Outreach budget has been submitted for the Our Little Roses outreach mission travel expense to Honduras on January 30th, 2017.

Christmas Angel Tree _ Jewish Family Services

Plans are underway for the St Marks third annual Christmas Angel Tree drive in collaboration with the Jewish Family Services who will distribute the gifts to the needy children of our community. The plan is to collect about 150 items by early December or sooner.

October Gift Card Drive_ Jewish Family Services

St Marks has joined with the Jewish Family Service for the October Gift Drive to collect \$10 Boston Market gift cards to be distributed to seniors or couples who live alone and are not able to prepare for Thanksgiving meals.

Orientation for Outreach Volunteers

Orientations will be held on the second Sunday of every month in Classroom 3 from 12:00-1:00. Volunteers must complete an orientation (online or in person) before volunteering. All volunteers should create an account at www.volunteersuncoast.org and register for the orientation on the calendar before attending an in-person session. Must be 13 to participate, anyone younger than 18 needs a parent/guardian to attend (to sign forms). Questions about the orientation sessions or the HandsOn volunteer calendar should go to Paula Sandusky (psandusky@gmail.com).

Trinity Café

Members from St. Mark's continue to volunteer at Trinity Café on Fridays. Trinity Café is located at 2801 N. Nebraska Ave in Tampa. Anyone interested in volunteering can sign up at <http://www.trinitycafe.org/volunteer> or call 813-865-4822.

Boys Scouts

No update.

African Team Ministries

Next update will be in December 2016.

Helping Hands

No update

STEWARDSHIP – Bill Lynch

Our envelop stuffing went well and quickly. Thank you Marva, Pam and Latrice. Thank you Pam for speaking at Sunday's service to draw attention to the "pledge cards are in your monthly statement". In the progress of contacting volunteers to speak at services. Plan is to cover 10/16 to 11/13 services, both 8am and 10:15am. As of today, I have 4 volunteers (including myself) vs 9 total services. Although 1 person could cover both services, it would be good to have a broader group.

We are seeking speakers who are generous givers, are new and enthusiastic or from our youth group (high school age). General guidance is to speak from the heart about "why I give", "why I joined St. Mark's" (especially if new) or "what I like about St. Marks" (for a youth group person). Our theme this year is Living Generously.

I've had a couple great suggestions and one among them (Rich Wellons) has agreed; I'm trying to contact the second suggestion. If you have further suggestions for speakers, please let me know. If you have a suggestion and "I know this person really well", even better :).

WORSHIP – Sandi Gaudet

The Acolyte Festival, held on September 24th at St. Peter's Cathedral, was represented by several acolytes, EMs, Deacon Mary Alice, and Fr. Roy. Those that attended the Festival were invited to attend two of the several workshops held throughout the day. After lunch, all acolytes were required to dress in proper vestments along with other churches and processed together through the cathedral in front of the Bishop. A great time and wonderful experience was had by all that attended.

YOUTH & FAMILIES – Anna Ashworth

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

In October, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classes will continue to explore the Mystery of the Kingdom of God using the Fettuccia Ribbon, which explores events from Creation to Jesus' birth to Parousia, or End Times. Throughout man's existence, God is preparing to bring all of creation into unity with God. We are invited into this plan. The concept of the "Blank Page" is introduced - we too write a page in this history. We can write a page that helps or hinders God's plans.

Level 1 will focus on the Land of Israel – Jesus was a real person, and this is the world in which he lived.

Level 2 students will be invited into the order/concept of God's plan by naming their own page.

Level 3 students will begin work on writing their own pages.

YOUTH

September Highlights: The youth attended Baseball with the Bishop on Sept. 23 and the Acolyte Festival on Sept 24. There was a limited turnout due to Friday night Football games.

In October, the youth are preparing to invite friends to the St. Francis Day event and to focus on attending our Sunday School classes. They will re-implement the student led lessons 1x per month. They have also begun recruiting for Happening (Nov 3-5) at Day Spring.