

The Church of the Good Shepherd

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Minutes for April 18, 2023 at 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting, held in the Foyer.

Clergy present: Arianne Rice+, Mark Lobb+

Officers present: Kirsten Lavin (Sr. Warden), Bill Baker (Junior Warden), Cynthia Fraser (Registrar)

Vestry members present: Grace Belkot, Cathy Easter, Mary Ellen Gervais, Jill Hanson, Marge Rodgers, Barry Rollins, Cheryl Seal

Absent: Bill Nesbitt (Treasurer), Charles Warren

WELCOME AND GROUP CHECK INS:

Arianne+ began our meeting with an opening prayer from BCP 139 and a check in. The second week of Easter highlights the story of doubting Thomas, who wanted proof of the resurrection. “Would you share an experience where you felt significant doubt - but did not let that deter you? What did you learn?”

OFFICER REPORTS:

Arianne+ and Kirsten began the meeting discussing the survey. So far, there have been 16 responses, but they plan to send the link again with the weekly e-blast and have hard copies available after our Sunday worship service and have post-its on the wall in foyer. They hope to have a bigger response so that on April 30th they can share the results with the whole congregation at a forum after the 10 AM service. They distributed a handout that showed some of the responses are similar to what the Vestry found completing the survey during our retreat, and some of the responses were different. We are hoping the forum will help us find a direction for the congregation to help build community and come up with our “next steps”. Kirsten will ask the congregation how would they like to see our church “build community”, through field trips, more meals together, a book club? These were some of the suggestions from the online survey. We also want to get some volunteers to help organize some of these new initiatives. We want to find out from the forum if we are allocating our resources the way the congregation wants.

Arianne+ doesn't want to talk about finances in the forum, we need to stop trying to fix future problems. She said the Vestry is close because they continued to meet throughout the pandemic, but the congregation is not as close since the pandemic, and we need to build back that sense of community. The Agape meal was well attended, and it was the first time, except for Trivia Night, that the congregation has come together as a community. We hope to find out how each parishioner “is fed”, through the forum. We talked about how tired clergy are about hearing “where are the families with kids”? We discussed it is possible to grow the church with singles and the middle aged demographic, and there are other people who come to church besides young families. Arianne+ wants to concentrate on creating a community with those we have, and then hopefully, the church will begin to grow, but that is not the most important thing to concern ourselves with now.

The QR code resulted in some new pledges during the Easter service. There was a lot of energy at the Easter service.

A small group will be working to update and improve our website by making it easier to navigate, updating photos and ministries, redoing the home page and adding some short videos.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bill Nesbitt was absent from our April meeting, but he emailed this report.

TREASURER'S NOTES/COMMENTS:

1. Our financial condition remains guarded.
2. Annual giving improved in March, but we are still behind last years' pace by \$32,715. Our projected deficit in this category is now \$24,603, and there are still some challenging months ahead in terms of the budget for this category.
3. We budgeted \$12,000 net proceeds from Fundraising Event(s). Work on this should begin soon if we hope to hold such an event this year, or this will add to our budget deficit.
4. We have been fortunate not to be plagued by unexpected repairs this year. Let's hope that trend continues.....
5. Our overall projected deficit is now \$122,000, up from the initial budgeted figure of \$111,000.
6. Our total equity is down \$189,609 compared to last year, mainly due to our use of endowment funds for operations.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION 03/31/23:

1. Investments and Bank accounts = ~\$1.25 million
2. Operating Account balance = \$18,869
3. Liabilities = \$14,750 (J2A pilgrimage, memorial funds, and the security deposit for rectory rental (\$4,450))
4. Total Equity = ~\$2.78 million

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY 03/31/23:

1. Pledge income is down ~\$32,700 compared to this time last year
2. Salaries are up ~\$24,000 compared to last year
3. Employee benefits have increased \$11,000 compared to last year
4. Utilities have increased ~\$1600 compared to last year

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT:

Bill Baker said it is still fairly quiet. Here is his report.

- After the high winds several weeks ago, a number of slates blew off the roof on the Boyce Ave. side of the building. The Day School playground is on that side of the building and they're aware of the issue. This roof will be replaced this summer.
- Lights in the sanctuary ceiling above the pulpit and choir pews were replaced.
- The plumbing in the rectory had several minor problems which were corrected.
- The exterior of the building across from the columbarium has several areas of peeling paint that will be addressed. Other areas of the building will be inspected for any similar problems.
- The clarion (the electrical, mechanical device) that replicated bells in the steeple at one time was removed from the sacristy and sent to the dump.
- An HVAC unit for classroom 11 continued to have problems. This is the second time in several weeks. A new part has been ordered and hopefully this will solve the problem.
- MJM Landscaping was on site last week for spring work
- The replacement sign at the corner of Boyce and Carrollton is on order and will be similar to the sign at the corner of Boyce and Bellona.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Arianne+ mentioned that Outreach is getting ready for Camp Imagination for SLYC and is looking for volunteers.

PASTORAL CONCERNS:

Arianne+ mentioned some parishioners who needed our prayers and mentioned a baptism coming up. She is grateful for the virtual service, which is a Godsend for the older members who are ill and can't get to church regularly. We then closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting concluded at 7:35 PM.

Submitted by Cynthia Fraser, Registrar for the Vestry

Signature *Cynthia Fraser*