

The Church of the Good Shepherd
1401 CARROLLTON AVENUE, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21204-6518
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Minutes for February 18, 2020 at 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting in the Foyer

Clergy and Staff present: Arianne Rice+, Van Gardner+

Officers present: Tina Thomas (Sr. Warden), Harry Andrews (Junior Warden), Dick Reid (Treasurer), Cynthia Fraser (Registrar)

Vestry members present: Bill Baker, John Bonn, Liza Ebeling, Harry Gormley Jr., Kate Knott, Bill Nesbitt, Brooke Riegel, Hillary Shaffer, Rebecca Williams

Vestry members absent: Missy Adams, Jamey Hebb, Sarah Lemon (GSS Director)

WELCOME AND GROUP CHECK INS

The meeting opened at 6:30 PM with Arianne+ asking the Vestry to check in with these questions, "God comes to us disguised as our life," Where is God coming into your life? And "Where do you see God coming into the life of our community?"

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT:

Tina Thomas asked that the Vestry to vote on the Armbruster AV Report that Sara Noon prepared and explained to us last month. The system will improve the audio in the Nave for services, give Arianne the capability to record services easier and provide a video monitor for the Foyer for overflow services and to improve wayfinding. It will also include better mikes for the choir. We were told there was an anonymous gift of \$20,000 to help fund this improvement and this phase of the project will not exceed \$24,000. Bill Nesbitt made a motion that the Vestry approve the purchase of the AV system as long as it does not exceed \$24,000. Hillary Shaffer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Tina discussed that she has been leading some visioning sessions. She held a dinner for 20 members to discuss the needs of the church and the viability of a Capital Campaign. She also met with two previous Senior Wardens and will meet with Ellen in a week. She also plans to meet with the Day School on ways to partner more with the church. Issues that were discussed in these meetings were the viability of another capital campaign, staffing issues, needed building repairs and creating better communications. They also talked about who some future leaders from the congregation could be and the Vestry was told to get back to officers with any suggestions.

Tina also said Harry had a free property assessment and between repairs and renovations that are needed and staffing, the church needs to raise \$1 million. She mentioned the success of recent campaigns, one in 2005 raised \$750,000 and one from 2013-2015 Campaign to Grow raised \$240,000. She mentioned the church has \$305,000 left from the sale of the house and needs \$250,000 for staffing.

She mentioned it is time for the Nominating Committee to meet. The committee is comprised of graduating Vestry who invite one member of the congregation. The outgoing members this year are Kate Knott, Hillary Shaffer and John Bonn. They need to present nominees to Vestry at the April meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dick Reid reported that the church continues to be in sound fiscal shape. The church has \$1.52 million and only \$16,000 in liability. He discussed that giving trends are still down. 2020 is projected to be the 4th year that the church will be operating at a deficit.

The Parochial Report has been prepared. From this report, they figure the Diocesan allocation and it is projected to be less in 2021, \$69,000, a \$5,000 reduction from 2020.

He mentioned that Mark McGrath and Lori Bourne completed the financial audit again this year and found no concerns regarding the management of the Church's financial books and records. They mentioned that they could not find the deed to the property and that they did not have Vestry minutes from this year. Cynthia Fraser mentioned that she is keeping a notebook of all Vestry minutes and attachments for 2019-2020 and will bring it to Lauren at the church.

It was mentioned the Vestry needs to approve the Housing Resolution for this year. This is usually approved in January. Arianne+ said she will put this on the March agenda.

Dick mentioned there are \$11K in gifts in an M+T fund and he asked the Vestry to vote to move them to the Disciples Fund. Harry Andrews made a motion which was seconded by Kate Knott and approved unanimously. The Vestry also voted to move gifts given in memory of Harris Jones to the Roof Fund. As the steeple renovation is dedicated to Harris, it was thought appropriate to place the gifts in the Roof Fund. Tina Thomas made a motion, seconded by Harry Andrews and it passed unanimously. Dick also asked that we allocate a certain amount from the Botanical Fund to help improve the grounds around the church. The fund has \$50K.

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT: Harry Andrews reported that phase two of the roof replacement will begin around May 22nd. It will be going on during Camp Imagination so they may need to coordinate their time on campus to the last week in July through the first week in August this year.

He mentioned they were given a gift of \$2K to enliven the beds bordering the steps to Carrollton Avenue. They are hoping to match this with \$2K from the fund established last year by another gift from a parishioner.

He said some of the organ pipes were bent and are out for repair. The Day School continues improvements to their play areas and asked for Vestry approval for three efforts: ground deck, planter box for a kinder garden and install a metal activity wall in the Carrollton playground for magnetic activities. Harry supports the first two, but suggested we vote to approve something nicer for the magnetic board. These improvements will be paid for by the Day School.

Still no movement on the dated sign for Good Shepherd. Arianne+ asked that the Buildings and Grounds Committee address the sign.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

NEWCOMER'S COMMITTEE: Brooke Riegel held a Newcomer's dinner at her home and it was a big success.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Cynthia Fraser and Hillary Shaffer reported that the Outreach Committee held a dinner in February and did some visioning on where to put their priorities and also discussed a possible new name for "Outreach". The meeting also included some leaders of some of our Outreach ministries like ACTS, Microloaning, Loaves and Fishes, etc... that are not part of the Outreach Committee to get their thoughts on their ministries.

CREATION CARE: Van Gardner+ said the committee will have a tree planting with the kids and the Sunday after Easter will be "Creation Care Sunday" with more activities planned.

CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES: Kate Knott reminded everyone of the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday at Good Shepherd with parishioners from Holy Comforter. The Chili fundraiser raised \$1,100 for the Appalachian trip, and she reminded everyone they are accepting things for the Yard Sale on March 28th.

DAY SCHOOL: Liza Ebeling mentioned that she is still looking for ideas for revenue for the church and mentioned Ballroom Dancing and Zumba classes as possible ideas. She is still looking for more ideas.

Bill Nesbitt mentioned that Yoga is starting up again March 1st at 4 PM. They will alternate between two instructors for ten weeks and see how it goes.

RECTOR REPORT: Arianne+ discussed that she will be leading Confirmation classes for 9th graders. She has four kids and 3 adults will be being received and she was asking if anyone wanted to be a sponsor for the adults. There will be a dinner for those being confirmed and their families on March 16th and Bishop Sutton will be confirming them on March 22nd. She asked that the Vestry meet with Bishop Sutton before the 10 AM service on the 22nd. He will then stay for the Coffee Hour after the 10 o'clock service to talk with parishioners.

She mentioned that Liza Ebeling is coordinating a trip to the Walters to see the St. Francis of Assisi Missal on March 15th.

Arianne+ mentioned that will be meeting with three candidates for Associate Rector over the next two weeks.

She also wanted to change the by-laws to have our Annual Meeting in January, not May. She wanted Vestry candidates to be elected in January and attend a retreat the following Saturday. Then, priorities will be in place for Fall Stewardship planning. She is asking that the Vestry vote on this motion in March and then share with the congregation and have the entire congregation vote on this in May.

She mentioned that there will be three services for Ash Wednesday.

PASTORAL NEEDS AND CONCERNS: Arianne+ closed our meeting with a prayer and asked for any pastoral needs and concerns. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Submitted by Cynthia Fraser, Registrar for the Vestry

Signature _____

Attachments:

Rector's Report

Senior Warden's Report

Junior Warden's Report

Video System Proposal

Treasurer's Report and Statement of Financial Position as of January 31, 2020