

## **The Church of the Good Shepherd**

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Minutes for January 17, 2023 at 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting, held on Zoom.

**Clergy present:** Mark Lobb

**Officers present:** Tina Thomas (Sr. Warden), Bill Baker (Junior Warden), Bill Nesbitt (Treasurer), Cynthia Fraser (Registrar)

**Vestry members present:** Harry Gormley, Jill Hanson, Brooke Riegel, Marge Rodgers, Barry Rollins, Charles Warren

**Absent:** Arianne Rice+, Grace Belkot

### **WELCOME AND GROUP CHECK INS:**

Tina Thomas ran the meeting in Arianne's+ absence. She opened with a prayer and a check-in question. What Holy or sacred moment occurred for you over the Christmas holiday? Many were happy to see so many back for the Christmas services and appreciated the music at these services.

Tina also asked the outgoing Vestry members about their experience on the Vestry and their hope for the coming year? Many are hopeful the attendance will increase this year, and we can get parishioners back in the church. They said they enjoyed the new friendships they made and thought it was a gift to be on Vestry and they loved trying to help the church. They see a strong 2023 with the church getting stronger and the people getting stronger.

### **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:**

Tina Thomas said in writing up the Annual Report that it has been a privilege to work with the Vestry and she made new friends.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Bill reported that church remains in guarded financial shape. We will probably need to rely on the endowment in 2023. We need more gifts and more people back in church on a weekly basis. He was more optimistic than usual, but we had over \$100K in expenses for the church last year.

### **TREASURER'S NOTES/COMMENTS:**

1. The investment climate may be brightening a bit as inflation seems to have cooled, but our annual giving numbers fell short of our goals by \$22,300. We need to do all we can to realize our revenue goals in 2023.
2. Our total equity was down \$198,846 from 2021, mostly due to the required use of endowment funds to support operations and for unexpected repairs to our facilities.
3. Our "final" budget deficit in 2022 was \$76,763
4. Endowment balances were drained during the year both to support operations and to pay for unbudgeted expenses – mostly repairs (\$101,900)

## **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION 12/31/22:**

1. Good Shepherd remains in guarded financial condition.
2. Investments and Bank accounts = ~\$1.25 million
3. Operating Account balance = \$52,248
4. Liabilities = \$88,077 (prepaid pledge income, J2A pilgrimage, memorial funds, \$9,402 due to the endowment accounts, and the security deposit for rectory rental
5. Total Equity = ~\$2.70 million

## **STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY 12/31/22:**

1. Pledge income was down ~\$18,900 compared to 2021
2. Regular contributions are up \$900 compared to 2021
3. Salaries are up ~\$75K over 2021
4. Utilities were ~\$14,000 more than in 2021
5. Repairs and Maintenance were \$76K more in 2022 than in 2021

## **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:**

Bill Baker said, fortunately, it has been a quiet month.

- The new outside signs will be installed in early February, if the ground is not frozen.
- The floor in classroom #7 has been successfully repaired.
- The final Fall landscaping (leaf removal, etc.) has been completed.
- The Fire Marshall inspection found no issues or problems.
- The new door security system installation (hardware & software) is nearly complete.
- The furnace in the rectory briefly stopped working and oil was leaking in the basement. Both problems were quickly solved.
- The ceiling leak in the sacristy from the AC unit was repaired.
- Our annual insurance review and coverage s has been completed.

## **OUTREACH REPORT:**

Barry Rollins reported that ACTC had a Pastor's meeting and Mark+ and Barry attended. The speaker was from Baltimore County and he spoke about the homeless problem in the county. They need shelter, affordable housing and there are 4,000 homeless in Baltimore County currently. Mark+ said they are building a program through a grant to help with the homelessness problem. Barry said the grants for food during the pandemic for ACTC have stopped and places like the MD Food Bank have fewer resources as well, so they still need our help and he would like people to continue to bringing peanut butter and mac + cheese to the pantry in the foyer. He also said he hopes the Outreach Committee will make a donation in late Spring when they have a challenge fundraiser, and the money will be matched at that time. Jill mentioned that Loaves + Fishes needs blankets, socks and outerwear.

## **WORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE:**

Mark+ said we had a nice turnout for the Christmas services, the best since the pandemic. We had 151 at the 4:30 PM Christmas Eve service, 71 at 9PM, 37 on Christmas Day and 119 watched on You Tube. The new service for children at 9:15 AM on Sunday has averaged 12 people a week. They have also been doing services at retirement communities and had 30 people at Pickersgill, 15 at Roland Park Place, and Arianne+ and Mark+ were at the Gathering at Blakehurst.

Mark said the Sacred Ground series on line has 25 people and that is offered nationwide and there are 15 people signed up for the Dry January series with St. Thomas Church in Owings Mills. He is meeting with the Men's Group on Wednesday mornings, and they are discussing the book, "Toxic Charity".

Tina then mentioned some upcoming dates, the Annual Meeting is January 22<sup>nd</sup> after the 10 AM service and March 4<sup>th</sup> will be the Vestry Retreat from 9-3 PM.

Tina closed with pastoral concerns and we all said the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting concluded at 7:09 PM.

Submitted by Cynthia Fraser, Registrar for the Vestry

Signature *Cynthia Fraser*