

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

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Minutes for January 22, 2023 at 11:10 AM, Annual Meeting in the Parish Hall

**Clergy present:** Arianne Rice+, Mark Lobb+

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

**Vestry members present:** Mary Ellen Gervais, Grace Belkot, Jill Hanson, Brooke Riegel, Marge Rodgers, Barry Rollins

**Absent:** Harry Gormley, Charles Warren

### **CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER:**

Arianne+ called the meeting to order and thanked the Hospitality Committee for organizing a delicious Brunch for the congregation for the Annual Meeting. She then opened with a prayer.

### **RECTOR'S REPORT:**

#### **ELECTION OF THE NEW VESTRY:**

Cheryl Seal and Cathy Easter came forward to be elected into the Vestry. Mary Ellen Gervais made a motion for the congregation to elect these two new members into the Vestry through 2026. The motion was seconded by Grace Belkot. They will sign the book at the first Vestry meeting. They were given a Prayer Plant and a new Resource Guide published by the Episcopal Church.

Arianne+ thanked the outgoing Vestry members, Brooke Riegel, Harry Gormley and Tina Thomas, Senior Warden. Brooke will stay on as the Day School Liaison.

#### **SENIOR WARDEN REPORT:**

Tina Thomas then announced the Laypeople of the Year since this has not been done since 2017. A plaque hangs in the foyer with names of parishioners over the years. She named Dick Reid for 2017 for his work as Treasurer, Sally Craig for 2018 for her work as Registrar, 2019 for Bill Nesbitt for his work on choir, Finance Committee and Treasurer, 2020 for Harry Andrews for his work as Junior Warden, Bill Baker for 2021 for his work as head of ushers and present Junior Warden, and 2022 to Cynthia Fraser for her work as Registrar.

Tina then gave a short speech as she was stepping down as our Senior Warden after staying on an additional 1.5 years. She said she made new friendships, she honed new skills like patience and she loved Arianne's+ sermons and she thanked many people including Kim Chalmers, Ruth, Robert, Sarah Lemon and Kait.

Her wishes as we move ahead are that we continue to grow the church and realize we have a challenge ahead with our inability to meet the bottom line. Good Shepherd takes time, talent and treasure (money) to continue. We need a Capital Campaign to finish the roof, a fundraiser, a "friendraiser"- to grow the church, and she hopes the Outreach Committee, which is most

important committee continues in its ministry to help our community at large. She also hopes we continue to foster our relationship with the Day School.

She then read her "Ode to Good Shepherd"  
Arianne came for a visit one day  
I wasn't sure why. would we talk? would we pray?  
Would she ask me to take on a little church task  
Like making some calls, like giving some cash?

No, this visit was larger and much more important  
Please she put forth, would I be COGS senior warden?  
Oh my, I said, no... you must be mistaken...  
Part of the vestry, I'd never partaken.

I have to admit, I was taken aback  
could she want me? a heathen... A hack?  
Did she really think, I was up to this job?  
Inside I think I wanted to sob....

I timidly asked about meetings. She said "they're a few:  
Some in the church; and some in the pew;  
some in the library and the larger Smith Room;  
some in her office and this before zoom

I am not great at math, but I was beginning to fear...  
Sounded like lots of them year after year!  
I consulted with Ellen, Snowden and Clai  
I talked to Henry and then I knelt down to pray!

Lord, help me I think I am going to agree  
Lord, help me to lead and to see  
How I can help this small church of mine  
To move forward and maybe to shine.?

Well, it wasn't just me, there's this team called the Vestry  
Who made my job easy, helped me do my bestry  
There was Kim, Arianne and now the wonderful Kait  
Who make it all smooth, who made it all great.

Three years turned quickly to four and a half  
With covid and calendars, we changed up our path  
I certainly received more than I gave

and loved riding the Good Shepherd wave.....

In closing, I have this one piece of advice:  
Don't worry so much and don't even think twice.  
if you are ever asked to make this wonderful choice  
say yes to the church on Carrollton and Boyce!

Thanks to all of you for supporting this church. Please keep it going..... Tina Thomas

She then introduced the new Senior Warden, Kirsten Lavin, and gave her a cap that says "Follow Me!"

### **JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT:**

Bill Baker mentioned that the church and the Parish Hall and rectory are all getting old and there were a lot of repairs last year as mentioned in his report.

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

Bill Nesbitt gave his Treasurer's Report which is detailed in the Annual Report. He said it was a tough year financially, not only with unforeseen repairs to the building, but with reductions in the endowment due to the market and needing to use it to meet our bottom line. The endowment is down \$200,000 this year. We are fully staffed, but we are not increasing our revenue. The Outreach budget was cut 25% this coming year. We need to grow the church, and hopefully with a full staff, we can attract more people, and we all need to be evangelists for Good Shepherd. He said it is not sustainable to draw on the endowment year after year. We need a Capital Campaign not just to finish the roof, but for new air conditioning and upgrades to the kitchen. We also need a Stewardship campaign.

### **OUTREACH COMMITTEE:**

Mabeth Hudson gave her report and said she is stepping down after 9 years, and Clay McNally will be taking over as Chair. She said it was a privilege to serve with this talented committee. She talked about 2013 when Van Gardner+ met with the Committee and inspired her to look for relationships and places where we can do the most good in a world with deep hunger. That started our relationship with SLYC. She thanked Arianne+ for the opportunity, and said it was the most meaningful role she's had at the church. She closed with a prayer.

Arianne+ thanked Hillary Sargeant for taking over the Altar Guild and Kevin King, Jane and John for their help with the Music Program, and to Mark Lobb+ and Sharon for their help this year.

### **DAY SCHOOL REPORT:**

Sarah Lemon gave her report and said the school has grown and is in a good position. The programs are full and she is able to have a 1 to 6 ratio which she is very proud of at the Day

School. They have 144 students, and next year is full as well as Summer School. She thanked Good Shepherd for being so gracious with their expansion and being a great partner. She said we had a Holiday Party in December with the Day School Board and Vestry for the first time in three years. She thanked Arienne+ for helping to forge a new relationship between the church and Day School and for going to San Antonio to the conference to talk about their new relationship. They meet once a week to discuss challenges and joys.

She thanked Ruth and the 32 teachers, especially Bettye King and the teachers with over 30 years of service. She thanked the new Assistant, Brigitte. She said it is the warmest place you could ever work, and they support you as well. She mentioned the new Family service at 9:15 AM is working well for some of the Day School families.

The meeting adjourned at 11:54AM.

Submitted by Cynthia Fraser, Registrar for the Vestry

Signature *Cynthia Fraser*