

Minutes of Vestry Meeting of St. Paul's Memorial Church
February 16, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Senior Warden Darren Ball. Chaplain Anne Cressin led opening devotions.

Present: Michele Allen, Darren Ball, Michele Claibourn, Anne Cressin, Peter Dennison, Vickie Gottlob, Paul Legrand, Jeannie Long, Anne Ribble, Bob Saylor

Absent: Lloyd Snook, Lynne Weikart

Staff present: Neal Goldsborough, John Reid

ACTION

- The minutes of the January, 2016 meeting were approved.
- The minutes of the Vestry Retreat of January 29-31, 2016 were approved.
- The Vestry approved the appointment of Wayne Nolen and Buck Smith as substitute lay delegates to the rescheduled Annual Council of the Diocese on March 5.
- The Vestry approved the Parochial Report for 2015 with the amendment that Heather Warren is not employed full-time by St. Paul's.
- The Vestry approved the ordering of twenty-four chairs for the Chapel. Twenty-two of these have already been purchased as memorials by parishioners, and it is anticipated that two more will be purchased.
- The Vestry approved the removal of the pews and carpeting from the main floor of the Chapel in order to have the floor refinished shortly before the arrival of the chairs this summer. The cost should be approximately \$2500, which will be paid out of the regular maintenance fund.
- The Vestry approved a resolution honoring David Nelson for his twenty-five years of faithful service coordinating the Lectors for Sunday worship. The resolution will be presented during announcements at an upcoming 10:00 a.m. service.

DISCUSSION

With regard to the Parochial Report for 2015, John Reid highlighted the following:

- The number of communicants in good standing (reported as 953) is impossible to determine exactly, and is based on the number of communicants the previous Easter.
- Members are taken off the church rolls only by official notice of death or transfer to another church, thus the membership number of 1629 for 2015, with an increase of eighteen and a decrease of forty-four.
- The number of thirty-five children in Sunday School is the total registered by their parents during the year.
- The most precise and meaningful numbers for 2015 are the 246 pledges and the total amount pledged of \$591,372.
- Total revenue for 2015, including pledges, other offerings and gifts, rental income, endowment income, and support from the diocese, was \$822,333. Expenses totaled \$839,266. The difference was paid out of the operating fund reserve.

Darren Ball commented that the 305 weekday celebrations of the Daily Office during 2015 are due to the faithfulness of Joe Lenow and Lawrence Elliot. He also pointed out that we are burying far more members than we are baptizing.

John Reid distributed a document showing downward trends in attendance, burials, baptisms, outreach and contributions from 2005 to 2015. While average Sunday attendance decreased by 37% between 2005 and 2015, the total plate, pledge and regular support in 2015 was 98% of that in 2005. Church school enrollment showed a marked drop when church school was no longer held during the 10:00 a.m. service, beginning in 2007. Interim Rector Neal Goldsborough commented that these figures would not prevent St. Paul's from attracting a goodly number of applicants for the position of rector. The Search Committee should be seeking someone with an entrepreneurial spirit who would see signs of hope and welcome the challenge of reversing downward trends in attendance and baptisms. He advised the Vestry to take the long view in mapping out a strategy for the next few years. One of our great strengths is the presence of the populations of the University of Virginia and Westminster Canterbury.

Associate Rector Elaine Thomas reported in writing that nine adults are receiving confirmation instruction and that we will have seven confirmations and three receptions at the Easter Vigil with Bishop Susan Goff. Six students and two adults are joining members of Westminster Presbyterian Church for a pilgrimage to the Arizona-Mexico border during Spring Break in early March. Elaine is coordinating Holy Week liturgies. A replacement is being sought for the lector coordinator position vacated by David Nelson. Koinonia is partnering with the Wesley Foundation and St. Mark's Lutheran to host Nadia Bolz-Weber on the weekend of March 18. Deborah Healey will be commissioned as a Stephen Leader on February 21. Elaine is leading a retreat at St. James, Louisa, on February 20, and attending a retreat at St. James's, Richmond the following week. She is in conversation with four of our members in discernment for ordained ministry.

Parish Administrator John Reid commended the work of Anne Ribble in producing the Lenten devotional booklet, and the hard work of Sexton Andre Jones on snow removal. He reported that the electrical panel in the basement was replaced on February 12. He informed the new vestry members of the plan to install a wheelchair lift in the hallway adjoining the sacristy. The Vestry approved this proposal last year, a contractor is working on a bid, and the project should be completed in June or July. John mentioned the necessity of timely communication of this project to the parish.

In the absence of Treasurer Lynne Weikart, John Reid presented the Financial Reports. He reminded the Vestry that our new rector will cost us about \$30,000 more per year than the present Interim Rector. We will need to be very careful with new expenditures. The situation will be eased somewhat with the renegotiation of the Booker House lease in four years.

Junior Warden Peter Dennison reported that he plans to work with John Reid and Neal Goldsborough on establishing a planned giving program. John has already received training in this area and is aware of several parishioners who would be lead donors in such an effort.

Senior Warden Darren Ball has asked Jackson Zimmerman to serve as the at-large member of the Vestry Finance Committee. Darren also reported that we have received notice from the Trustees of the Funds (of the churches and other Episcopal institutions in Virginia) that we will benefit by receiving an annual income in perpetuity from our share in an extraordinary bequest to the Funds by Clarence Robinson. Darren concluded by reminding vestry members to complete the Parish Survey and to make payment for the retreat at Roslyn.

Darren and Register Vickie Gottlob presented the revised description of the duties of the Sunday officer of the day, and a sign-up sheet was circulated.

Anne Cressin led concluding devotions, and the meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Gottlob
Registrar