

Grace Church Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2017

Call to Order: Father Matt called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Roll Call: Barbara Rudy, Kathryn Calame, Pam Freeman, Beth Willis, Evelyn Garzetta, Kyle Van De Water, Nanci Kryzak, John Lacey, Kristin Martin, Cathy Shanks

Missing: Lynda Boissey, Richard Lucal

Clergy: Father Matt Calkins

Opening Prayer and Devotion – Cathy Shanks read the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

April 30, 2017 Meeting Minutes approved.

Readings:

Father Matt led a discussion of *The Episcopal Way* through Chapter 10, and distributed a new book to read – *The Path*.

Cathy Shanks presented the Financial Reports:

The operating budget income and expense reports were distributed.

Nanci asked Kathryn to speak to the decrease in funds regarding Gracie's Attic. Kathryn stated that the mission is very seasonal. Gracie's Attic pays \$150 per month for the space on Franklin Avenue. The sales are about the same as when they had space in the parish hall but we now pay rent. Gracie's Attic is holding its own. It gives us a presence in the community and we can make good use of the space in the parish hall.

Fuel oil expenses were up this past winter. With the retirement of Peter Muir the music director salary will be a savings until a new person is hired. We incurred expenses due to the elevator repairs and a new computer was purchased for the office.

The bank charges line item will be corrected to read "Line of Credit" repayment. Worker's Compensation insurance is higher this year than last and Cathy will check with David to see if it is a result of an audit.

Stewardship Report:

We are continuing to search for a Stewardship Chair. In the meantime the Vestry is the Stewardship Committee. Kyle Van De Water will give a class on estate planning. Father Matt stated that the health of the church depends on a solid pledging base. We need to work on a planned giving campaign. The possibility of a brochure for spring 2018 was discussed. Kyle will help with the brochure.

Buildings & Grounds Report:

The Buildings & Grounds Report was presented by Kristin Martin.

There is a large tree located between the playground and the church that is unstable due to rotting roots. The tree needs to be taken down. The cost to remove the tree will be approximately \$1,750.

Improvements to the Memorial Garden were discussed. Father Matt asked that Jim Dinsmore be considered as the garden designer for both the Memorial & Teaching Gardens. Dinsmore designed the garden at St. Gregory in Woodstock. The estimated cost for the design would be \$1,200.

We would purchase the plants from Twin Brooks Gardens. Nanci Kryzak has visited the garden at St. Gregory. She is not certain it represents the same vision we have for Grace. Father Matt will ask for a preliminary plan from Dinsmore.

Vicarage Update:

Our current tenant will be moving out at the end of July. Father Matt will be meeting with Juan Perez, of Harlem Valley Ministry to see if he is interested in moving into the vicarage.

House on Corner Update:

The house on the corner was purchased through foreclosure for \$164,000 and is currently on the market for \$299,000. It needs extensive work but has good bones. The estimated repair cost would be \$150,000 if we do the work ourselves, and \$200,000 if we hire someone to do the work. It was discussed whether we should consider buying the house for Grace Year. If we could find an investor that would purchase the property as an investment/depreciation it would be considered.

Thorne Building Update:

Father Matt announced great news concerning the Thorne Building. A 501c3 non-profit corporation has been formed to allow use of the building as a community center. Millbrook Tribute Garden has funded a \$100,000 grant.

Tribute Garden Grant Request:

Cathy Shanks has applied for the Tribute Garden Grant for \$20,000. The funds would be used for general repairs, the memorial and teaching gardens, and the upgrade to the audio needs in the church.

Program Reports:

Preschool Update:

Maureen Sarma will be stepping aside as the director. Deborah Coconis will be stepping up. Deborah will be looking into what it will take to extend the program to a full day school and other possibilities to accommodate more children.

GLO Update:

A community roundtable will take place on Thursday. The goal is to teach the community how to help immigrants. Father Matt noted that Evelyn is doing a wonderful job with the program - helping immigrants with personal advocacy, knowing their rights, and getting their id cards. Evelyn is also working with Sheriff Butch Anderson and County Exec. Marc Molinaro.

EPIC Update:

Abby is currently in Guatemala with a group of 20 inner-city high school students (many born in Somalia).

Grace Year Report:

Grace Year has received a \$5,000 grant from the national church to help develop the program.

Warden's Report:

Thank you to everyone for coming to the lunch with the Rt. Rev. Andrew Dietsche. Bishop Dietsche was very supportive of the work that Father Matt is doing at Grace Church.

Other Business:

A new mission statement was discussed. We will continue to work on the mission statement, in the meantime "Deep Roots, Open Doors" was selected as a descriptive slogan. Deep roots represents our Anglican history, open doors represents our policy of being open to the future.

The next meeting will be July 16, 2017. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m. Submitted by: Pam Freeman, Clerk