

Grace Church Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2017

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

Roll Call: Kathryn Calame, Pam Freeman, Beth Willis, Nanci Kryzak, Cathy Shanks, Lynda Boisse, Evelyn Garzetta, Richard Lucal

Missing: Barbara Rudy, Kyle Van De Water, John Lacey

Change in vestry: Father Matt announced Kristin Martin has stepped down.

Clergy: Father Matt Calkins

Opening Prayer and Devotion – Kathryn Calame read the opening prayer from the book “God’s Trombones.”

Approval of Minutes:

September 17, 2017 Meeting Minutes approved with a modification. It was noted the plan shown by Father Matt at the September meeting for the memorial garden was the original plan, not an approved plan. Nanci Kryzak approved the minutes with the change and Kathryn Calame seconded the motion.

Readings:

Father Matt opened the discussion of *The Path*- through Chapter 5. Nanci Kryzak suggested someone from the book discussion group give a brief review of the book along with their thoughts at the 10 a.m. service.

Retreat:

Kathryn Calame stated the retreat at Holy Cross, West Park NY from October 6-8, 2017 was wonderful. The brother who was the instructor was low key and the event was spiritual. We are hoping to make this an annual event.

Our next retreat will be at the Trinity Conference Center during the season of Lent. The cost would be \$50 per night. Trinity Wall Street runs the conference center located in West Cornwall, Ct. We can reserve rooms—single or double occupancy—at the Trinity Retreat Center for Friday night March 23. We can then have working day on Saturday. Some members expressed a desire to spend a night (or two); others feel they can just go for the day. Please let Father Matt know your preference so the space can be reserved. Kathryn stated she would like some time without the consultant during the retreat so that we could talk amongst ourselves.

Treasurer’s Report:

Cathy Shanks presented the Treasurer’s Report. We are on-target with all year-to-date expenses and income. The Finance Committee met last month and they are in agreement with the current numbers. Additional income was received from the Grace Rummage Sale – the total net income is now \$3,408.33. We have seen a savings in the music line item because Peter Muir has retired and our new Music Director, Denise Bassen, will not officially begin until November 1st. It was noted that last year the income from the youth was \$625 and this year there has not been any income. We had to make repairs to the elevator – the cost has been \$2,050 YTD. The adult program expenses include the purchase of copies of “The Path,” and the vestry retreat. The bank charges should be renamed to indicate it is the repayment of a loan last December from our line of credit for \$10,000. The repayment will be complete by the end of November. The preschool is up and running and doing well.

Richard Lucal suggested having a fundraiser centered on the church organ – maybe Phantom of the Opera.

It was also noted by several people that we might have substantial expenses in the future to repair to the organ.

Buildings & Grounds Report:

Kristin Martin was the reporting representative from the Buildings & Grounds Committee. Since she has stepped down from the vestry it was suggested Nanci K. or Evelyn G. might report in the future. Possibly Nanci can report on the progress of the memorial garden and Evelyn can provide general information as her husband, Joe Garzetta is on the committee. There will be a meeting of the memorial garden committee on Wednesday, October 18th.

Father Matt will ask David Swift to investigate better lighting in the Parish Hall. It needs to be brighter both on the main floor level and the second floor level. The Wi-Fi in the Parish Hall will be upgraded in October. Hopefully this will allow the use of credit cards for the holiday sale in early December, and well as meet the regular needs of GLO and others. Betty Rae Nittiskie, Linda Koltz, David Swift and Bill Hogan have planted two hundred daffodils around the door and side of the church, and the path leading to the office.

Website:

Pam stated she will work with Ashworth Creative to upgrade our website to include a donate page that will allow the use of credit cards, Paypal, and a link to setup E-Pledging. She will also work with Pragman Associates to add a page on the website for uploading videos of the church services. General updates also need to be performed by Ashworth to the website. Pragman is the company used for installing the new a/v system in the church.

Stewardship Report/Warden's Report:

The stewardship drive "Grateful Heart" will kick-off on October 29th and will conclude on Consecration Sunday, November 19th with a potluck lunch. Several parishioners will speak during the upcoming church services including Father Matt, Kyle Van De Water, Larry Graham, Betty Rae Nittiskie, and Kristin Martin.

We are still in need of a person to replace Robin Capers at the Food Pantry. It is a paid position - roughly 20 hours per week. St. Thomas Church is actively looking for a replacement.

Rector's Report:

The Christmas pageant is scheduled for December 17th at 4 p.m. All are encouraged to attend.

Father Matt stated he would like to have a welcome brunch on Sunday, November 12th at 11:30 a.m. for the newest members of Grace church. All Vestry members are encouraged to attend.

New Business:

Evelyn Garzetta stated a \$17,100 Liberty Grant has been awarded to GLO for a Grace Year Fellow.

The Interact Group was given permission to use the Parish Hall on Halloween from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. to collect food items. Madeline Lacey is the student representative.

On October 29th we will have a farewell cake for Robin and Doug Capers.

Grace Story:

Cathy Shanks gave a Grace Story.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Pam Freeman, Clerk