

Grace Church Meeting Minutes

September 17, 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, Nanci Kryzak, John Lacey, Cathy Shanks, Lynda Boissey, Evelyn Garzetta, Kyle Van De Water, Kristin Martin

Missing: Richard Lucal

Clergy: Father Matt Calkins

Opening Prayer and Devotion – Lynda Boissey read the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

July 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes approved.

Readings:

Father Matt opened the discussion of *The Path- Chapter 1*. To date *The Path* has been distributed to the vestry, parish members, and a student edition to the young people in Sunday school. Sunday school leaders Betty Rae Nittiskie and Jonathan Shanks are leading discussions with their classes. This book has been introduced to the parish and Sunday school classes in response to Renewal Works. Father Matt will begin using readings and reflections from *The Path* for his Morning Grace emails. The daily prayer will continue as usual.

In addition Abby Nathanson and Father Matt have setup an additional Facebook page for *The Path*. The page named "The Path at Grace" can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/379563449127632/>. A page has also been added to the website with the reading schedule.

Retreat:

Father Matt reminded the vestry of the upcoming retreat at the Holy Cross, West Park NY for October 6-8, 2017. Only a few people have signed up to date; 11 rooms have been reserved. Kathryn Calame said Holy Cross is a very spiritual place and you will not regret it if you attend the retreat. Father Matt noted that it is a wonderful place to learn how to pray and get closer to God. There is money in a fund if you cannot afford to pay and people are welcome to attend all or part of the retreat.

In addition to the retreat at Holy Cross that is open to everyone, Father Matt would like to plan a vestry retreat at the Trinity Conference Center during the season of Lent. The cost would be \$50 per night. Trinity Wall Street runs the conference center, which is located in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains.

Treasurer's Report:

Cathy Shanks presented the Treasurer's Report. We are on-target with all year-to-date expenses and income. The income/net profit on the Grace Golf Tournament was \$20,000, and the Grace Rummage Sale raised \$3,451. More money may come in from the rummage sale. There was income from the rental of the Parish Hall in the amount of \$1250. It was noted that John McDonald who leases the Vicarage sublets two rooms to help pay the rent. The rent we are collecting is market value.

Larry Graham has asked to step down as Chair of the Finance Committee. The committee meets four times a year. Currently the committee consists of Kurt Barnes, Richard Lucal, Cathy Shanks, and the Stewardship Committee – Barbara Rudy and Kathryn Calame.

Fundraising: Next year the Grace Rummage Sale will most likely be moved back to November. The next fundraising event will be the Christmas Bazaar on December 9th. Robin Capers will chair the event and she will ask someone else to lead the cookie

sale. Pam will work with Robin to organize and promote the event. Robin and Doug Capers will be moving at the end of October-they have been an integral part of the fundraising events (among other programs) and hopefully new people to take on these roles. Primarily the annual golf event will need additional leadership next year.

Buildings & Grounds Report:

Memorial Garden – Father Matt showed the vestry the original drawing of proposed plantings. This drawing was provided by Twin Brooks Nursery as a guide and will be modified as discussions continue. Father Matt stated the importance of including a columbarium, alter and lawn area in the design. Kathryn Calame asked where the entries would be to the garden – in hopes there would be two, one from the road and one from the church sidewalk/driveway. Kyle Van De Water expressed interest in being on the sub-committee for the garden and suggested the vestry take a walk outside and look at the area proposed for the garden. This sub-committee that will be formed will work with the Buildings & Grounds committee to design a plan to present to the vestry. Kristen Martin said that vestry members who are interested in being on the committee should contact her and all vestry members should let her know what they would like to see in the garden and what they feel is important. Everyone was in agreement that it should be a sacred and contemplative place.

Cleanup Day - Kristen announced that the Grace Church Fall Cleanup Day would be November 18th. The plan is to plant 200 daffodil bulbs on the church property. Rhododendrons may be planted near the Parish Hall entrance. Some vestry members said the deer like to eat the rhododendrons.

New Audio/Visual System for Church – Part 1 of the installation of a new a/v system will begin this coming week. One camera will be installed at the back of the church along with an improved Wi-Fi system. This will allow live viewing of the church services in the Parish Hall (ultimately this will be expanded as we add more cameras). This new system will be in place before the funeral for Ted Lindsley on September 23rd. Pragman Associates will be installing the equipment. The cost will be approximately \$12,000 and will be paid by a Tribute Garden grant and money from a GLO grant. The hearing loop and other proposed improvements to the a/v system would be done at a future date.

Work on the church roof will begin next month.

Stewardship Report/Warden's Report:

The stewardship drive "Grateful Heart" will kick-off on October 22nd and will conclude on Consecration Sunday, November 19th with a potluck lunch. E-pledging will be encouraged and parishioners will speak from their hearts about their faithfulness and gratitude for Grace Church. Kyle will speak about bequest and charitable gifts.

Rector's Report:

An additional five hours has been added to Abby Nathanson's job position. The EPIC program is in its third year and continues to grow; currently there are 16 students enrolled. More focus will be placed on the Grace Year Program next year.

Father Matt will be meeting with the music committee to hire a new music director in the next couple of weeks.

New Business:

Lynda Boissey suggested we change the day of the week the Vestry meets, allowing more family time on Sundays. Please send suggestions to Father Matt and copy Pam Freeman with the day of the week that works for you. Lynda will pick up anyone that does not like to drive in the evening. Maybe in the mid-winter months we will go back to Sunday afternoons. Wednesday evenings seemed like a possibility.

Grace Story:

Pam gave a Grace Story this month. Pam has several family members living in south Florida and Houston, Texas. All were safe from the recent hurricanes.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Pam Freeman, Clerk