

Grace Church Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2017

Call to Order: Father Matt called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Roll Call: Kathryn Calame, Pam Freeman, Nanci Kryzak, Cathy Shanks, Lynda Boisse, Evelyn Garzetta, Richard Lucal, Barbara Rudy, Kyle Van De Water, John Lacey

Missing: Beth Willis

Clergy: Father Matt Calkins

Opening Prayer and Devotion – Pam Freeman read the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

October 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes approved with a modification. In paragraph about the 'Retreat' it was noted there was one instructor/brother.

Readings:

Father Matt opened the discussion of *The Path*. John Lacey said the children in the Sunday School program are enjoying acting out the stories.

Millbrook at Home:

Diane McNeil joined the Vestry meeting to talk about Millbrook at Home, a social organization being developed to help people stay in their homes as they age. The program was based on the Beacon Hill Village Program in Boston. Hopefully this will be a self-sustaining program. Volunteer members will pay \$120 year. The network could provide services to the members such as rides to doctor appointments, the grocery store, or around town. Access to expert services such as computer technicians, handymen, plumbers, cooks, and personal trainers would be offered. St. Peter's Church has agreed to help provide setup money through the end of 2017. The four churches in the Town of Washington will each contribute \$1000 as a one-time fee for seed money. The Vestry agreed to contribute \$500 from the Rector's Fund and \$500 from the Parish Nurse Fund to cover the \$1000 fee. Father Matt noted that Rhinebeck has been working on this model and it has been going well, but it took 5 -6 years to get it up and running. They have a website you can check out at www.rhinebeckathome.org. On Wednesday, November 29 from 1 to 4 at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center in Hyde Park: Rhinebeck at Home will host "*The Aging in Place Movement in Dutchess County: Let's Make it Happen Now!*" The keynote speaker will be Lawrence Force, PhD, Director of the Center on Aging and Policy at Mount Saint Mary College. Father Matt thanked Diane for her work as parish nurse.

Treasurer's Report:

Cathy Shanks presented the Treasurer's Report. It was noted that the \$118,378.52 in the pledge 2016 YTD column does not reflect pre paid pledges. Based on those numbers it looks like we are doing much better in 2017 than in 2016 but we are doing about the same.

Katherine Calame pointed out that Gracie's Attic is not doing well. The problem is that we are paying rent for the space and we are selling mostly inexpensive items. Katherine will re-evaluate in January and report back to the Vestry as to whether or not any profit was made for the year and her recommendations.

The assessment will be paid off by the end of the year. On line item 520.002 the music expenses \$4,250 were for supply and guest musicians.

The 2017 Operating Budget Projection was discussed. We are projected to receive \$162,000 of the \$165,085 in paid pledge income. The annual budget was \$180,000. We are \$18,000 under budget. Last year we had a mid-year stewardship drive, but

we did not have one this year. The Dyson grant was renewed for three years. The preschool is doing okay as a result of generous support. We have one more fundraiser for this year, which will be the holiday bazaar. The 2017 total annual budget income is \$343,275. The income projection is \$313,195. The shortfall of \$32,000 comes from three areas - \$21,000 in pledge/plate/support, \$5,000 in program income, and \$7,000 in other income. 2017 annual budget for expenses is \$343,275. Projections for expenses are \$326,552 - a surplus of \$16,723. Overall there is a projected shortfall of \$15,357 at the end of the year. Cathy will be meeting with David Swift to discuss how he did some of the projections and the Finance Committee will be reviewing the same at their meeting on December 2nd. The Finance committee will also be working on a draft 2018 budget.

Stewardship Update:

Consecration Sunday will be on Sunday, November 19. The Stewardship Committee will setup the lunch. Vestry members please get your pledges in, plan on attending the potluck lunch and help with the cleanup. E-pledges are preferred.

Buildings & Grounds Report:

The memorial garden sub-committee met. Father Matt showed a working hand drawing of the proposed garden. Removal of the existing gate and fence was mentioned, the possibility of the installation of a small stonewall (24" high), and a labyrinth was discussed. Also proposed was a metal fabricated cross made for installation under the resurrection window. Twin Brooks has made plant suggestions. Other proposals were for the installation of fountain and a baptismal font. Vestry members please look at the plan when you have the opportunity, walk the area, and provide feedback. Barbara Rudy emphasized the importance of explaining to the parish members the details of the garden and where the money will be coming from; a good portion of the project will be paid for through gifts and will be completed in stages as money is raised.

The new roof on the church has been completed.

Pam discussed updates for the Grace website which will include an on-line donation page allowing the use of credit card payments and designated gifts, as well as new page for live-streaming videos. The video page will include a link to view the live service and past services will be archived on the site. If there are upload/edit charges for the videos we may hire a student to perform these task. Folks in the retirement community, shut-ins and people traveling will now be able to view the church services. Kyle suggested providing folks in the retirement community with the bulletins as well. We will monitor the number of views. The Vestry agreed to move ahead with the updates. Pam will work with Ashworth Creative and Pragman Associates to complete the process.

The 'greening' and the 'cleaning' of the church will be done on Saturday, December 2 from 9 a.m. – 12. Lynda Boissey will make a list of what needs to be done.

Warden's Report

Barbara thanked everyone who came to the newcomer's lunch and especially thanked Evelyn for organizing the food. Lynda stated she thought it went well. Five Vestry members attended. We recruited a new choir member from the lunch.

St. Nicholas Bazar

The bazaar is scheduled for December 9th. Lynda Boissey is organizing the Women of Grace table, Debbie Cody is organizing the cookie sale, Robin Capers organizing the craft vendors, Barbara Rudy leading the money intake, and Pam the promotion.

The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Pam Freeman, Clerk