

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016, 7 p.m.**

**Members present:** Ellen Ball, Sue Fain, Kitty Haffner, Mark Kussmaul, Char Lingen, Rev. Jan Oller, Christopher Short, Harry Siamas, Peter Swanson. **Others present:** Treasurer John Culley

Rev. Jan opened with prayer.

**Minutes from Jan. 20 (regular meeting):** Sue moved to accept, Peter seconded; passed unanimously.

**Minutes from Jan. 31 (after annual meeting):** Ellen moved to accept, Char seconded; passed unanimously.

**Outreach liaison (Ellen):** The committee will lie fallow as a group, with no new and limited ongoing projects, as members continue participation in their own outside endeavors and the committee studies for a future vision.

**Parish Life liaison (Carole Meyer, in absentia):** As in 2015, the committee has no chair, nor any functions being planned presently.

**Financials:** John reported that everything looks normal for this time of year. The first Sunday in Feb was the largest deposit anyone could remember – over \$17k – due mostly to people pre-paying their pledges. Kitty moved to accept the report, Peter seconded; it passed unanimously.

**People's Warden election:** Kussmaul accepted the nomination. Elected by acclamation.

**Selection of committee liaisons:** Kitty chose to stay with the Altar Guild; Harry with Gratitude and Planned Giving; Mark with Adult Education; Ellen with Outreach; and Peter with Property, Building and Grounds. Char volunteered for the Columbarium committee, Sue for Children's Education, and Kitty for St. Martha's Guild. Carole was chosen to stay with the Parish Life committee.

**Selection of entrances for maintenance:** Ellen volunteered to help Harry on the door by the library and rector's office, whose drain frequently clogs with leaves. Sue took the front door, Kitty and Betty took the patio, Christopher took the "Calico Cat" door, Peter took the kitchen, and Harry the door by the sacristy.

**Old business**

Website review. The group met and looked at other websites they like and don't like, hoping to come to consensus on one or two as models for new webmaster to redesign. The process is expected to take a while.

Sam Vaught returned from shadowing at St. John's Lafayette, and has been accepted at St. Hilda's House in Connecticut, starting Aug. 26. He is waiting to hear about internship in Iona earlier in the summer, and gathering documents to start the first official steps toward priesthood.

### **New business**

Members discussed the Episcopal Church Foundation Vital Practices article, "Get the Hell Out of Church." In discussing ways to use church as a "base camp" for daily witnessing, the members agreed to the article's suggestion that during Lent, the Prayers of the People should include professions other than elected officials and clergy; and that during vestry meetings, members might share Bible verses that pertain to their outside work. Ellen told members about her experience bringing clothing to ER patients, which reminded her of Matthew 25:34-40. Mark signed up to share at next month's meetings.

The first week of the Lenten soup and study series brought 36 people – St. Johners, other Mainliners, and even a Roman Catholic. Sue recommended that St. Johners spread themselves out rather than clustering at the same table, and that the facilitator wear a microphone.

Ellen suggested opening each vestry meeting with everyone sharing a celebration.

Mark said he and Meribeth are both going to conference in Kentucky, about what churches can do more effectively to help transitioning prisoners.

Harry asked about ongoing plans to do a service at Wellbrooke. Rev. Jan said she has called a few times, but they have been non-responsive.

Rev. Jan said she agreed to be available at Wabash College in response to the shooting and fugitive situation that locked down the campus in February.

### **Upcoming events**

Lenten breakfast set for Feb. 27, chaired by Meegan Reedy, expected to draw some 125 women. Followed by Marie Powers funeral service.

March 5: Vestry retreat, Wellbrooke.

March 6: Girl Scout Sunday.

April 10: Bishop Kate's final visit. She'll also be at April vestry meeting, on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:** Peter moved, Ellen seconded; it passed unanimously.

Submitted by Christopher Short, clerk of the vestry