

St. John's Episcopal Church
Vestry meeting, 7 p.m., Wednesday Nov. 16, 2016

Members present: Ellen Ball, Sue Fain, Kitty Haffner, Mark Kussmaul, Char Lingen, Carole Meyer, the Rev. Jan Oller, Christopher Short (clerk), Harry Siamas, Peter Swanson.

Others present: Treasurer John Culley

Rev. Jan opened with prayer. Members shared celebrations. Harry read from Galatians, on the fruit of the spirit, which reminds him of the qualities he admires in defendants – most have those qualities in some measure, so it's important to remember they're people and not just cases.

October minutes: Harry moved to accept, Peter seconded; it passed unanimously.

Financial report: Still sticking to the budget, but we've fallen very slightly behind on pledges. We did finally break that streak of red-ink months. Christopher moved to accept, Peter seconded; it passed unanimously.

Liaison reports

- Adult Education: Meeting Tuesday Nov. 22 to discuss spring plans. Remainder of 2016 is set, with the exception of Dec. 18.
- Children's Education: The kids will present "The Twelve Days of Christmas" at the 10:30 service on Dec. 18.
- Columbarium: The Pickerings have applied for two niches. No vestry members objected. The current bank has 11 niches remaining; the next will perhaps go on the west wall.
- Gratitude: Pledge campaign wrapped up with ingathering on Nov. 6. Thanks to all who pledged.
- Outreach: Waiting for our REINdear list. There are checks against overlap with Operation Toybox. Food Finders on Dec. 7.
- Parish Life: he Oct. 21 potluck was attended by 22. Carole and Char decorated and lit the room with candles for an intimate atmosphere. A Christmas gift exchange is scheduled for Epiphany, Jan. 6, at the Fains'. Plan to revive Dinners for Eight in the spring is still on, but indistinct.
- Planned Giving: Led a good discussion on Nov. 14, "Living Well Until You Die," about planning for the end of life.
- St. Martha's Guild: Memorial service for Alex Lebedeff was Sunday, Sept. 4. Service for Ann Lebedeff was Tuesday, Nov. 15. Meegan is organizing a coffee-hour cleanup crew.
- Worship: About 30 came to prayer service on the eve of the election. One stayed for the entire two-hour session.

New business

Ellen, Mark, and Harry will be leaving the vestry after annual meeting in January, and will nominate replacements. Members shared qualities to look for in prospective vestry-people, including: Different viewpoints, energy and excitement, perhaps with young kids. Nominators and Rev. Jan will meet by mid-December, in order to share the nominee list with the parish by the end of December.

Stained glass restoration: Never been done before. Betty Culley and Sam Hildebrand are getting estimates; it's likely to be above the previous estimate of \$32,000. We're looking into various funding mechanisms, grants and such. Rev. Jan suggested that at the end of the year, amounts above a break-even point at the end of the year might be transferred to Major Repairs Reserve. She asked that the vestry be prepared to authorize the treasurer to take this action at the December meeting.

We've been asked by the diocese to host Jason Fortner, a candidate for priesthood from St. Peter's in Lebanon. He'll just be observing, and his tenure will likely run through the annual meeting (so he can see how two different parishes do it).

Lessons and Carols will be on 1 Advent instead of 1 Christmas. We will likely have a joint Taize service with First Christian Church, at 7 p.m. on Dec. 14. The stable service will be at Dan and John's farm at 5:30 Dec. 24. As Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 are Sundays, there will be a single 9 a.m. service on those dates, maybe with music or maybe not.

Peter moved to accept the housing resolution for 2017; Ellen seconded, and it passed unanimously. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS The Rev. Janet Oller is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Church of St. John's, Crawfordsville, IN, which does not provide a residence for her; the Vestry of St. John's resolves that of the total annual compensation of approximately \$60,852.00 to be paid to Rev. Oller during the year 2017, \$18,000.00 is to be designated a housing allowance, within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986. This Resolution shall remain in effect for 2017 and all subsequent years, until replaced and approved by the Vestry.

Old business was tabled until the December meeting.

Peter moved to adjourn, Sue seconded; it passed unanimously.