

St. John's Episcopal Church
Vestry meeting, 7 p.m., Wednesday, January 18, 2017

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, Jason Fortner

Rev. Jan opened with prayer. Carole shared scripture: In my father's house there are many rooms. It's always been a favorite passage of hers, and she was glad to encounter it as she recently started reading the Bible anew.

December minutes: Amended to add Jason's presence. Harry moved to accept as amended, Peter seconded; it passed unanimously.

Financial report: December continued and even ramped up a year of extraordinary generosity. Overall, we collected about more than \$21,000 beyond what we had projected for the year. Ellen moved to add another \$2,000 to the building fund from 2016, Mark accepted; it passed unanimously. Peter moved to accept the report, Char seconded; it passed unanimously.

2017 budget: It's balanced! The only change made at the budget hearing was on computer expenses – the bill for accounting software went up \$12 a month. Ellen reiterated that she'd like to have more money for the children's education; specifically, she suggested getting all the children bible story books, at a cost of \$350. Jan mentioned that money is available in the family budget for that too. Harry seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

Liaison reports

- Children's Education (Sue): Looking for spring helpers and fall teachers, especially as we split kids up into age groups. Studying Moses until Lent; a Passover play is scheduled for March.
- Parish Life (Carole): The Fains' white-elephant party for Epiphany was well-attended, and everyone had a great time.
- Planned Giving (Harry): Kim Roberts has agreed to take Rees Olander's place on the committee. Char moved to accept the substitution, and Mark seconded; it passed unanimously.
- St. Martha's Guild (Kitty): Hosted a nice reception for Jim Suren's memorial in December. The annual meeting potluck is Jan. 29.

Old business

Sam Vaught was admitted to postulancy. He's in the process of deciding about seminary. He's hoping to be back in May, and start seminary in the fall.

New business

Parochial report: Made some changes regarding number of confirmations and adult education attendance. Mark moved to approve with amendments, Peter seconded; it passed unanimously.

Resolution regarding gift endowment: Sue moved to accept the resolutions, Carole seconded; it passed unanimously. The wording reads as follows:

The Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church, dated January 10, 2017

James M. Suren has named St. John's Episcopal Church as a beneficiary of his IRA Account ("Gift") held by Edward Jones. James M. Suren is now deceased and Edward Jones requires a resolution from St. John's to accept the Gift including the opening of an account with Edward Jones in order for Edward Jones to distribute the funds.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved: The Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church acknowledges with gratitude that James M. Suren has named St. John's as a beneficiary of an IRA account held with Edward Jones.

And be it further Resolved: The Vestry agrees that Edward Jones shall open an account with Edward Jones in the name of St. John's Episcopal Church to receive the Gift and authorizes Edward Jones to take all necessary action to complete the transfer of such funds to St. John's.

And be it further Resolved: The Vestry agrees that upon receipt of the Gift, the Gift shall be placed in the Endowment of St. John's.

And be it further Resolved: The Vestry agrees that John Culley, Treasurer, is authorized to act on its behalf with respect to the Gift and the placing of funds in the Endowment.

Love for Waycross: They're having a silent auction at their February fundraiser dinner, and would like a gift from the parish. Jan suggested using the family fund to sponsor a child's week at Waycross – not that it would be something for people to bid on, but it would help their scholarship fund to grow. Mark moved that we donate \$500 for the scholarship fund, Char seconded; it passed unanimously.

Pastoral concerns: Regarding children at the service. We discussed the incident of January 15, in which a parishioner confronted one of the newer families about her perception of their children's noise. Several members were upset about what happened. Jan believed the family would come back, and also reminded everyone that the confronters are still part of the congregation as well. Jan distributed a draft of some new language for the front of the bulletin by email:

Children of all ages are welcome at our services. If it is easier for you or your children, we do have a nursery for children through age four. If you would like your child to receive Communion and they are in the nursery, bringing them upstairs at the Fraction Anthem is a good time. However, if you prefer to keep your children with you during the service, know that we welcome them into our midst.

Vestry members agreed that the language was satisfactory, but didn't vote on the resolution so as to remain flexible as we feel out the ongoing concerns.

Adjournment

Peter moved, Ellen seconded. Passed unanimously.