

St. John's Episcopal Church
Regular vestry meeting
12 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017

Members present: Sue Fain, Kitty Haffner, Marc Hudson, Char Lingen, Carole Meyer, Rev. Jan Oller, Christopher Short (clerk). **Others present:** John Culley (treasurer)

Rev. Jan opened with prayer.

Members discussed the gratitude campaign, and the story we'd like to tell. Sue spoke of gratitude, as a reminder that we're not just meeting a budget, we're literally giving back to God from whom all blessings flow. Christopher spoke about the new gratitude bulletin board, and how the gratitude of past parishioners has directly enabled the rich history of St. John's. Carole spoke of the parish community, and how that grounding allows us to serve the wider community as well. Jan said she'd like to appreciate the past, without getting stuck there.

This moved toward outreach, and members discussed the work being done at Good Samaritan Church, the new mission in Brownsburg. Every other week, after their single service, in place of Christian formation classes, they do multiple service projects.

May minutes: Char moved to accept, Marc seconded; passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: A bit behind on pledges, but plate offerings are up, and spending is a bit behind, even with the unplanned maintenance needs. The auditor recommends an additional procedure each month, that someone other than the treasurer approves the utility bill (which is automatically debited). That person will most likely be Carole. Christopher moved to accept the report; it passed unanimously.

Liaison reports

Adult education (Marc): Martin Luther video lecture series is under way, with auxiliary lessons by Bill Cook and Derek Nelson planned. Also: the "Luther and ..." part of the series will be shown and discussed on Tuesday evenings.

Children's education (Kitty): Restarted on Sept. 10, in three different classes, with many kids in attendance. Attendance was down on the second Sunday, and we'll keep an eye on it going forward.

Columbarium: Four new applications have been approved.

Gratitude/Planned Giving: Bulletin board is up. Letters and pledge cards going out Sept. 24.

Outreach (Carole):

- Volunteers needed for Oktoberfest, Oct. 28 in Whitlock, celebrating 500 years of Luther's reformation with beer and brats. In conjunction with Christ Lutheran and First Christian.
- Outreach is supporting Shirley Burd's participation in Kairos Prison Ministry again, donating \$350. Parishioners are encouraged to bake cookies.
- Food Finders is set for a date TBD in December. Reindeer project will comprise about 40 names, which we should have before Thanksgiving.
- Members visited the women's rehab facility Half Way Home, and the committee voted to offer financial support, starting with a match of the free-will offering at Oktoberfest.

Parish Life: Dinners for eight going well. The Hudsons have agreed to host the Christmas white elephant party.

Old business:

Rev. Jan distributed a graph of membership, attendance, and giving trends for the 11 years ending in 2015. She noted the anomalies in the ways that clergy calculate numbers for parochial reports, and how that affected the numbers of baptized members reported.

Nominating committee: It's Carole, Kitty, and Peter. We spoke in May about recruiting young members, but no progress has been made. Members discussed people who might be willing, and noted that Sunday noon might be a better time for prospective members than the weeknight times in previous years.

New business:

On Oct. 1, we'll be worshipping with members of the Wabash Glee Club (and its alumni), at the Pioneer Chapel.

We've grown to the point where we're in need of a part-time parish administrator, approx. 10 hours per week. Last year we decided against the hire, in order to balance the budget. It would cost about \$7,000.

The Luther series on Tuesday nights is going through Oct. 24, in conjunction with Lutherans and First Christian. Jan will be out of the country Oct. 2-13. Ingathering Sunday is Nov. 5.

Adjournment: Sue moved, Carole seconded; passed unanimously.