

## **St. John's Vestry Minutes for 10/21/18**

Rev. Jan Oller called our meeting to order at about noon. Present were the Reverend Jan, vestry members Nancy Bennett, Jeff Burd, Sheila Evans, Sue Fain, Marc Hudson, Char Lingen, and Alan White. Treasurer John Culley was also present.

Reverend Jan began the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** After our prayer, Nancy moved that the minutes for August be approved and Char seconded. The minutes were approved.

**Financials:** Treasurer John Culley commented that St. John's is in pretty good shape financially. \$75,000 dollars has been added to our endowment. We are a few dollars short in terms of pledge monies for the year, but otherwise in good shape. It was noted that attendance was down and this correlates with our pledge monies being down. One factor that may be contributing to this is that our families with growing children have more activities and are finding it more difficult perhaps to attend church regularly. John reported that St. John's has passed its audit—there was an issue about the hiring of Marie Stocks not being recorded in the minutes, but a closer reading of the minutes revealed her hiring had been recorded. Sue moved the report be approved and Jeff seconded. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Liaison Reports:** Nancy reported that there was nothing new to report from St. Martha's Guild. It was mentioned that children's attendance in our education programs was down and inconsistent.

**Baptism:** Reverend Jan announced the upcoming baptism of Georgia Suzanne Siamas-Kinnett (the Siamas' granddaughter) on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Wardens' Concerns:** Senior Warden Sue Fain mentioned that she wanted to make sure the Greeters are locking patio doors after the beginning of the service. She will have Marie retype those instructions and have them posted.

### **Old Business**

**Audiovisual review project:** Nancy mentioned that she had not moved on the a.v. project. She confessed that she is shy about approaching the I.T. staff at Wabash. But she will: as she noted, "I need the guilt."

### **New Business**

**The Rector's Sabbatical:** Reverend Jan spoke of her upcoming Sabbatical which she had announced to the vestry in an earlier e-mail. This sabbatical is promised Rev. Jan in her letter of agreement with St. John's: she may take a three-month sabbatical after serving St. John's for five years (which period she completed in November of 2017). She plans to begin her sabbatical on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 and conclude it on Sunday,

August 24<sup>th</sup>. During a discussion with the wardens, “Sue Fain suggested that the Parish undertake a bit of its own exploration by visiting another Episcopal Parish once a month during [her] time away so that we all may have fun and may all be stretched a bit by our experiences. Examples might be: St. Andrews, Greencastle; St. John’s, Lafayette; Good Samaritan, Brownsburg.” In a later note, Rev. Jan wrote the vestry: “Bill Wieland has confirmed that he will supply on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of June, July, August. He will also provide pastoral care if needed. John Gedrick is not willing to commit this far in advance but is willing to be called if a substitute is needed. Thus we may need to find someone to be our priest on the first and third Sundays of each summer month, as Reverent Jan noted. Or community members could visit other local Episcopalian churches as Sue suggested. And/or we might consider doing a morning prayer service those Sundays when no priest is available. It was wondered what would be done for a funeral and for a baptism. Jan said that a baptism could be postponed. And Bill Wieland will provide pastoral care. With regards our summer vestry meeting, we could have a June meeting led by our senior warden; then, given church policy, we would not be required to hold vestry meetings in July or August.

**Communication Plan:** Our communication plan is that we will have weekly bulletins, a monthly newsletter posted on our website as well as sermons posted on our website. Nancy asked if we might arrange to link the newsletters with Facebook. Jan will meet with Will Turner to discuss that possibility. We also briefly discussed advertising St. John’s services. Basically, it is too expensive to advertise beyond our traditional Christmas and Easter advertisements.

**Visit of our New Insurance Representative** (of the Church Insurance Company): He did a walk-through on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and was basically pleased by what he saw. He did recommend that we post an exit sign by the doors from the nave into the narthex. He also noted we’re a little late with regards scheduling our next inspection by the Fire Department. He asked that we video every room as a visual aide and store those videos in the cloud. Rev. Jan will ask Chris Short to do those videos. Overall, we appeared to pass muster.

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

November 4<sup>th</sup>: Ingathering of Pledges and the collection of “change for change.”  
November 11<sup>th</sup>: the Baptism of Estelle Rossman (the Reidy’s granddaughter) at the 10:30 am service.

**New Vestry Members:** Since Char, Sue, and Chris are leaving the vestry in January, we need to find three new vestry members. Our three who are leaving will constitute the committee to secure those new members. Names mentioned as possibilities were: Jessica and Luke Roosa as well as Jeremy Hartnett. Brian Shook was also mentioned. We also wondered if Deb Vaught who usually attends the 8:00 am service should be approached and asked to consider.

**Annual Budget:** The annual budget will be prepared for consideration at our meeting in December.

Nancy moved that the meeting be adjourned and Char seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm

**Note: Our next vestry meeting will be at noon on November 18.**

--Respectfully submitted by Marc Hudson, clerk to the St. John's Vestry, on 10/28/18