

## **St. John's Vestry Minutes for 11/18/18**

Rev. Jan Oller called our meeting to order at about 11:50 am. Present were the Reverend Jan, vestry members Nancy Bennett, Jeff Burd, Sheila Evans, Sue Fain, Jim Gary, 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 October be approved and Char seconded. The October minutes were approved.

**Financials:** Treasurer John Culley noted that a mistake had been made in terms of a \$900 payment to our nursery assistant instead of the salary s/he was due for nine hours of work. The correction is an on-going situation that is supposed to be resolved with the 11/30 payroll. He commented that St. John's remains in pretty good shape financially. \$113,000 dollars has been added to our endowment. We are a few dollars short in terms of pledge monies and plate for the year, but otherwise in good shape. Rev. Jan hopes that people will come through with some unpaid pledges. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Liaison Reports:** Jeff reported that the flashing is shot; and we will need to replace the old a.c. equipment; this will require the use of cranes. The estimate of the expense will be \$5000 for both use of cranes and the new equipment.

**White Elephant Party:** Jim and Kathy Gary will host the White Elephant party in Whitlock Hall on Saturday, January 12 at 6 p.m. (probably).

**Wardens' Concerns:** There were no Wardens' concerns.

### **Old Business**

**AV Needs for Whitlock:** Nancy reported that she has not yet contacted anyone with regards our AV system. She will definitely do so before our next vestry meeting.

### **New Business**

**Housing Resolution for 2019:** Rev. Jan had included the text of the Housing Resolution for 2019 with the agenda for our November meeting. The text reads as follows: "WHEREAS The Rev. Jan Oller is employed as a minister of the Gospel by St. John's the Episcopal Church, 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 \$68, 984 to be paid by Rev. Oller during the year 2019, \$18,000 is to be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986." Nancy moved that the text of the agenda be voted on and included in the minutes. The motion was seconded, and approved by the vestry.

**Information Regarding the Church Insurance Agent's Visit:** Rev. Jan reported that the agent recommended that, in case of a fire, we should video all of our spaces at St. John's and upload to the Cloud. He suggested that we video every room as a visual aide. This seemed a good idea to the vestry; a motion was moved and seconded and passed that we have someone from the parish video our rooms. It was suggested that Jackson Albrecht do the video; Rev. Jan will contact him. As noted in our October minutes, the agent also recommended that we post an exit sign by the doors from the nave into the narthex.

**Wheat House:** Rev. Jan noted that the YSB has paid the premium for the insurance (roughly \$700-800 per year). Once a firm date for their move is decided we will have to move ahead on determining the building's future.

**Report from Nominating Committee for New Vestry Members:** Sue reported that she approached Jeremy Hartnett about joining the Vestry, but he found he must decline. Jessica Roosa is interested and she will talk with Rev. Jan about (possibly) serving on the vestry. Deb Vaught may also be interested. Bryan Snook was suggested as a possibility—but Jim observed Bryan was very busy and often out of town on business. Jim thought that Bryan’s wife, Jennifer, would be a better bet. It was thought Matt or Julia Wells might also be good candidates. Sue also mentioned Judy Wynne as a possible vestry member.

As part of this discussion we pondered the possibility of having vestry members serve three-year terms and also considered reducing the number of vestry members from nine down to five. Marc observed that it seems likely that this year, at least, we are going to find three good candidates who would be willing to serve on the vestry for two years. So, hopefully, we will not need to change our vestry bylaws at this time.

**The Misconduct of one of our Priests:** Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows sent around a statement about the report of the sexual misconduct of one of our diocese priests, the Rev. James K. Taylor many years ago. Bishop Baskerville-Burrows “found the complaint sufficiently credible to merit further investigation.” John Culley mentioned that he knew the priest and thought he was a great teacher. The priest is dead and so cannot be censured. The investigation continues, and Bishop Baskerville-Burrows invites anyone who has information about this situation to contact Mother Suzanne at All Saints, Indianapolis. This inquiry provides a process that invites others to speak. It is not a civil suit but rather an internal Episcopal process that enables people to have a safe space for individuals to speak out and have a hearing.

**Our New Church Neighborhood:** At the very recent diocesan convention our Bishop presented her new vision of our diocese as intercommunicating “neighborhoods” which hopefully will speak to our desire for “greater connection and greater collaboration” among the parishes of our diocese. This means that several parishes that were not in our deanery will now be included in it and thus we will have new parishes to visit during Rev. Jan’s sabbatical next summer. The Episcopal churches of Brownsburg and Lebanon will both be in our new diocesan neighborhood. The Episcopal church of Bloomington will not.

**The Developing Calendar of Visiting Priests for Summer 2019:** Rev. Jan continues to find priests to fill in during her sabbatical:

Hillary Cook may be able to fill on the first and third Sundays of August. Kristin White, the Canon for Leadership, may be able to serve on June 2. Bill Wieland will be able to serve on June 9<sup>th</sup>. And on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, Rees and Wayne Olander will host an informal worship at their house on the shore. There would still remain three Sundays without a priest for St. John’s.

**Jan mentioned some upcoming dates to take note of:**

December 16: Vestry meeting following second service.

December 23: Baptism of Georgia Suzanne Kinnett (Siamas’ granddaughter) at the 10:30 service. This will also be the date of our greening of the church.

February 3: Bishop will visit and be happy to baptize or confirm.

Our meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

--Respectfully submitted by Marc Hudson, clerk to the St. John’s Vestry, on December 4, 2018; corrected December 10, 2018.