

St. John's Vestry Minutes for the 10/20/19 Meeting

Rev. Jan Oller called our meeting to order at about 11:50 am. Present also were vestry members, Nancy Bennett, Jeff Burd, Jim Gary, Marc Hudson, Jessica Roosa, and Jennifer Snook. Alan White arrived a little later. Absent were Sheila Evans and Deb Vaught.

We opened with a prayer led by Rev. Jan.

Minutes: Nancy moved and Jeff seconded that the minutes for the September vestry meeting be approved. The motion carried.

Financials: Treasurer's Report (submitted via e-mail on 10/17): John reported that we have converted our financial data to the Realm system, though he is not happy with the results. In particular, Realm handles interfund transactions in a completely different way than ACS did. There seems no easy way to straighten things out. He is meeting with Canon O'Sullivan-Hale on Tuesday afternoon to see what can be done. He also reports that financially we are in an OK position. Pledge payments remain a bit below expectations, but so do expenses. Interest income is substantially up due to gifts to the Endowment Fund and the high level of cash in the Edward Jones account. He hopes to have the regular financial reports available shortly.

Liaison Reports: were acknowledged. Our new policy that Greeters should also be our coffee hour hosts has not yet taken effect. With our loss of Carole Meyer, Meegan will step forward as the new chair of Outreach.

Old Business

Wheat House: Rev. Jan reported that, for the time being, we will mothball the Wheat House. It turns out that the funds that might be available from Indiana Landmarks and Sacred Places may not suffice for an extensive renovation of the Wheat House. And those possible funds from the former source come with stipulations that are not agreeable. Dan Booher has been seeking a new purpose for the Wheat House as a methadone addiction treatment center but that possibility is doubtful. There was some discussion of renovation, but no conclusions arrived at. Rev. Jan assured us that we don't need to make an immediate decision about the fate of Wheat House.

Building and Grounds: Rev. Jan met with the Buildings and Grounds Committee and went through the rolling spread sheet with the committee members. It was agreed that we have enough money for immediate needs. But it was decided that, in lieu of the \$1000 / year that we have budgeted for such work, we will need to budget \$12,000 each year henceforth. We have had budget surpluses in recent years and so have not found it difficult to cover extra expenses. But the annual average of money spent for such work in the last several years has been in the \$10,000-\$12,000 range.

Pathways to Vitality: Rev. Jan reminded us that the Pathways Team has invited the parish to be part of the discernment of the project by attending Adult Ed on Sunday, October 27th in Whitlock Hall at 9:15 am. All are invited so that the project may reflect what the parish thinks about how we might "Enlarge our Table; Expand Our Walls."

Rev. Jan encouraged us to come to our Friday night (10/25) Parish Pitch-In in Whitlock.

Pledges: Rev. Jan also urged the vestry members to be prayerful about their pledges for the forthcoming year. This past week we lost our biggest pledger. Jessica asked Jan about the appropriate amount for pledging. Rev. Jan noted that Biblically, the tithe (10% of annual income), is the suggested amount. But Rev. Jan added, that it is your decision, "you come down where you come down." We pledge with the understanding that sometimes life changes require an adjustment. But it is important that we make use of a pledging system so we have an idea each year of what our income will be so that we can make a realistic budget for that year. There is always some give and take. People pay their pledges variously--some, one time annually, some monthly, some semi-annually. One does not have to pledge, and some do not, but pledging facilitates the budget making process. Occasionally, when we have

some extra, unforeseen expense, such as for new kneelers recently, we have asked for contributions, but this is not our regular practice.

***Just Mercy* Discussion:** Rev. Jan reported that the discussion of *Just Mercy* went well. About 13-15 people attended, including Harry Siamas, whose experience as a judge added a helpful perspective to the discussion. Many found it an easier read than our previous book. Our next book for discussion is *The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border* by Francisco Cantu.

This Movie Changed Me Discussion: Rev. Jan also mentioned that there will be a discussion on October 30th in which participants can share their experiences of movies that changed them. This idea is based on episodes of *This Movie Changed Me*, a new podcast from On Being studios. (Episodes devoted to this topic may be found at onbeing.org.)

Rev. Jan alerted the vestry to other events on our calendar as listed below.

New Business: None

Marc moved to adjourn the meeting and Nancy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

--Respectfully submitted on 10/28/19 by Marc Hudson, Clerk of the Vestry.

Other vestry business carried out earlier via e-mail:

The vestry approved Jeff and Shirley Burd as sextons.

The vestry also approved the purchase by Judy Corbin of two columbarium niches.

Dates to keep in mind:

October 25th – Parish Pitch-in (WH)

November 3rd- In-gathering of pledges for 2020

Nov. 12th- Audit by Norm Callahan (annual)

Nov. 15-16th- Diocesan Convention in Bloomington (Ellen Ball and Elaine Pickering, Delegates)

Nov. 17th- Vestry (Library)

Nov. 23rd- Chili cook off (WH)