

Vestry Meeting 1-7-2023

Attending: Bernadette Matthews, Marck Morman, Valerie Curry, Ted Ruchalski, Klade Harmon, Marlaina Woodward, Kevin Lee, Erica Harris, Manuel Holguin, Lucy Herrera, and Mike Leary. Also attending were Fr Fabio Sotelo, Nicole Harrison, Mother Karen Anderson, William Paasewe, and Mary Lu Rogers.

Absent: Marver Browne

1) Meeting opened at 8:35 am with a reading from Matthew followed by a discussion of which phrase speaks to each this morning. For some this showed the importance of faith in God on the part of the wise men, following the star and dreams. For some, this showed different ways God calls people to Him. Fr Fabio concluded with the assurance that God provides each of us with a star to follow. He commented on the ironies of King Herod, a Jew, who was focused on power, not religion, so did not know the prophecy. Also, that this passage shows that Jesus' divinity was shown even in his infancy by the wise men (and others) showing homage. And the dreams, although they may be considered a "weak" communication, may be more important than the loud voices all around us.

2) Bill Paasewe gave the financial report on the budget. He has made a summary which will be sent out to the Vestry. The total projected for 2023 is just under \$390,000, based on increases in the last year. We will need to raise \$290,000 to make this work, with help from the Diocese. There will be some minor adjustments when the December numbers are in, but the main thrust is that we need to increase our giving. Ted and Erica may help Bill with graphs to better show this.

3) Nicole reports that Bingo is considered as gambling in Georgia and requires a license. Since there is an interest in Bingo, we have to watch out for the time limit of no more than 30 days a year. All the staff will have to undergo a GBI background check. This is much more intrusive than a raffle license. Also required would be annual reports, disclosure of creditors, and disclosure of membership. So, the question is whether it is worth it. Fr Fabio will research whether other churches are doing this. Valerie commented that St. John's and other regular venues offer this and may assist us in the set up. Ted asked if there are any vestry members interested in being a Bingo committee to investigate this further. We would need a redundancy of people for the tasks and procedures for handling cash, etc. Fr Fabio will find out much more about this before looking for people to do the work.

4) Ted proposed we begin VPOD on February 5, and he will make up a schedule to begin this. There were no objections.

Magalie is using the accounting side of Realm; Ted would like us to begin using the "people" side of the program, beginning with the Vestry. He expects that in the future the Realm app on a phone or other device will be the heart of information sharing for the congregation. E-giving is also done on the app. Mother Karen endorses this, but suggests that coffee hour include help spots to assist people to sign on and use the app. Bernadette said this was already planned.

5) Ted requested outgoing vestry members to continue to work with their replacements on the Strategic Plan.

Tomorrow is Bring a Friend to Church Day including a reception between services. We want to make this a very welcoming event.

Klade and Erica will meet again soon to plan for the Endowment Fund.

Bernadette and Mike have not met on planned giving. Fr Fabio will contact Canon John today.

Marck is continuing the interviews. Klade will interview Joy Sibley on Monday.

Valerie has been working on interest in community service; she intends to have a survey from every pledging member by the end of January.

6) Fr Fabio thanked the Vestry, especially those whose terms expire today (!): Klade, Manuel, Lucy, Marver, and Mike. January 29th we will begin with breakfast, then a bilingual service at 10 am, then the Annual Meeting. Nominations for vestry slots are still open. So far Jennifer Khaleel, Cecelia Midsi, Theresa Guzman, Martha Cuenca, and Lorenzo Clarke. He would like there to be many more candidates. Instead of voting, the names will be put in a box and drawn out, so that there are no "winners" or "losers". Vestry retreat is set for Saturday, February 4th, 8 am to 3 pm. The Vestry needs to decide whether this will be in person or online. Vote called, and the meeting will be in person, and on Mother Karen's request, peanut free.

7) Manuel reported on the Narthex floor project: we came in under the amount raised by the raffle. Fr Fabio also wants new flooring in the Administration Building, vinyl tile which we will install as a community. There is over four thousand dollars left from the raffle that can be used toward that. He would like to do another raffle and other activities to update Nickelson Hall.

8) Bernadette reported that for this year we are responsible for \$65,000 of Fr Fabio's salary with the Diocese filling in the rest. His housing allowance has to be approved by the vestry, so she moved for approval for his \$35,000 housing allowance. (This is not over and above salary, but part of it.) Valerie seconded and the motion passed.

So far nothing has changed with Mother Karen's agreement with the church; it carries through into June.

Shirley Correga is retiring from running the Counting Ministry and needs a replacement. VPOD could assist with counting. We still need someone to head it. Bernadette will work out how to schedule people. Lucy volunteered to substitute as needed. Shirley will help with training.

Vestry Retreat will be in Nickelson Hall with a peanut free diet, Saturday, February 4th from 9 am to 3 pm. Breakfast at 8:30 am with meeting beginning at 9 am. Members leaving the vestry do not have to attend.

9) Fr Fabio asked the vestry to pray for Bernadette in thanksgiving and support. Other parish members were mentioned as needing prayer and support. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 10:32 am.

Submitted 1-7-2023.

Mary Lu Rogers, Clerk

Corrected and re-submitted 1-23-2023

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