

Vestry Meeting 1-20-2024

Attending: Jennifer Khaleel, Valerie Curry, Bernadette Matthews, Ted Ruchalski, Marlaina Grant, Brenda Tamba-Dahn, Teresa Guzman, Cecilia Midzi, Kevin Lee, and Marck Morman., Martha Cuenca. Also attending were Fr Fabio Sotelo, Diane VanSlyke, William Paasewe, and Mary Lu Rogers

Absent: Erica Harris (has RSV)

At 9:04 am, Fr Fabio called the meeting to order, thanking the outgoing members. A passage from Mark was read by the vestry members line by line, then in full by Bernadette. Members were asked what words stood out to them and where they find themselves in this text. Discussion followed. Fr Fabio added his reflection.

Bill Paasewe commented that the church has a very strong Finance Committee. Last night they met and finalized the last draft of the budget proposed for 2024. This shows two scenarios: one with the continued subsidy from the diocese, mostly to help pay Fr Fabio, and the second shows us the cost of being financially independent. Essentially, we could be independent, but it would be very like living hand to mouth. Presently, we are an "assisted parish," receiving financial assistance from the diocese. We have one more year of subsidy. We cannot call Fr Fabio (or anyone) as Rector while we are receiving aid. Diane pointed out that if we can show a surplus of \$45,000 at the end of the year, it will show that we do not need a subsidy, and we can be independent. The numbers show that we are only about \$5,000 short. Every ministry will have to be very careful in their spending in this year and years ahead so we can meet these financial goals. The numbers for the priest's salary and support were supplied by the diocese. Fr Fabio commented that this discussion was not about money, but about mission, our commitment to St. Edward's. Bill's report shows that a 20% increase in our pledges would get us there. Jennifer moved that the vestry approve the proposed 2024 budget. Valerie seconded, and the motion carried. Thanks were offered to Bill and Diane for all their work on the budget, along with all the Finance Committee members.

Jennifer thanked Ted, Bernadette, Marlaina, and Kevin whose terms are ending.

Since the year 2024 is going to be about raising money, she has revised the rent for Nickelson Hall: a \$100 deposit, forfeited if the Hall is left dirty, \$600 for the rent of the Hall, \$150 for cleaning, and \$200 for tablecloth and chair cover use and cleaning. Jorge comes in on Sunday mornings to clean when the Hall has been rented. He is paid \$50. Jennifer would like to charge \$20 if table decorations are wanted, and possibly a replacement cost for linens if needed. Bernadette suggested that replacement fee be included in the \$200. The deposit money is to cover bottles and trash on the outside of the property, since there is a separate cost for cleaning inside. After discussion, Jennifer moved these prices be accepted; Valerie seconded the motion, and it carried.

Ted has left the water dripping in the sacristy to keep the pipes from freezing; this seems to be working. The pipe from the street keeps breaking and we keep repairing it; it just has to be replaced. Utilities are being marked now.

The last Brotherhood meeting was very good, with members from both congregations. The Brotherhood decided not to hold the pancake supper this year, but to look ahead for a different event for Shrove Tuesday next year. With Billy in the hospital and Blanding with a broken leg, they are a little short-handed.

The Brotherhood is hosting brunch tomorrow and will be out in force.

Fr Fabio reported that the bishop and Canon Alicia had invited him to a leadership conference last week. He came back energized and will be using what he learned through the year. In New York, he visited Ground Zero and a project in which a dump was transformed by communities of faith into good living areas.

Running for Vestry seats at the Annual Meeting are Alma, Ruth, Darcy, and Mike Staub. Mike is still discerning the call. Jennifer will continue as Senior Warden; the vestry will select the Junior Warden on February 10 at the retreat. Please hold the date from 9 am to 3 pm with a business session at the end.

The meeting ended with praise and thanksgiving for our blessings, then asking for those suffering: Billy, John, Blanding, and other names were added. The vestry prayed together the Lord's Prayer, ending at 11:05 am.

Submitted 1-20-2024

Mary Lu Rogers