

## Vestry Meeting 3-16-2024

**Attending:** Jennifer Khaleel, Cecilia Midzi, Darcey Tatum, Erica Harris, Alma Hurtado, Marck Morman, Brendalyne Tamba-Dahn, Valerie Curry, Ruth Mannah, Teresa Guzman, Lorenzo Clark and Martha Cuenca. Also attending were Fr Fabio Sotelo, Nicole Harrison, William Paasewe, and Mary Lu Rogers.

**Absent:** none

At 9 am, Fr Fabio began the meeting with a reading from the gospel of John, read by sentence by the vestry, then in full by Ruth. What does living life abundantly look like? How is that different from how you are living Now? What might need to change? These are the questions leading from this reading. The vestry discussed these questions, sharing their views of abundance. Most views condensed down to faith.

Bill gave the financial report: we have begun the year about \$8,000 behind our expected income, but these numbers are projections only. The actual pledges are still being compiled. He expects that by the end of March these numbers will change. Darcey had questions about the restricted funds. Bill asked him to list his concerns and he would get the answers for him and present it all to the vestry. Fr Fabio volunteered to help Bill with this. Jennifer and Fr Fabio discussed how costs are assessed by them and the Finance Committee to answer Cecilia's questions.

Darcey reported on the ingathering: thus far pledges come to \$151,000 on 54 pledge cards. There are another 36 who pledged last year, and cards will be sent out to them and friends of St. Edward's, hoping to add toward our goal. He intends that the vestry members should telephone the previous pledgers later this month. Valerie commented that home visits were more effective. Jennifer commented that she got four more pledge cards yesterday while she was in the office, so she believes that more will come in. Much discussion followed.

Jennifer began her reports with reading the Covenant of the vestry. Ministry Liaisons were reviewed in case anyone wanted to change groups or take on some of the unassigned ministries. This needs to be decided over the next month or two. Jennifer requested email or notes about preferences. She also requested that the vestry members get acquainted with their boxes in the office and check them for notices.

Denise fell in the sanctuary last Sunday. She is doing well but we found out that our first aid kit is out of date. It is being supplemented, and we may be able to have a workshop from the Red Cross or the Fire Department.

VBS proposals were presented by Nicole: each day would focus on a different area in the theme of Walk in Love. Liberia, the Caribbean, Central and South America would all be included. Lorenzo mentioned it should not be open to only Liberia but to the continent of Africa.

Not on the agenda, but Jennifer brought up that we need to find an auditor for this year, reporting to the Diocese by September 1, which is not too far away.

She will be asking for donations for food and drink for the celebrations Palm Sunday and Easter.

Alma reported that new parking lights will be installed today. Ted checked and it is more cost effective to purchase new ones than to replace the batteries in the old ones. People are using the "Fix Me" form on Realm which has proved useful to those who maintain the grounds and buildings. The first meeting on the festival is April 7 at 2:30 in Nickelson Hall; please come.

Fr Fabio thanked all involved in the Fish Fry. Lay Minister training takes a year; please let him know if anyone is interested. The 8 am Morning Prayer service with communion has had about 15 people attending each week. There will be two more on the next two Sundays. He and the Worship Committee believe it should be continued and he requested feedback from the vestry. If it is to continue, new ministries will have to be developed for it like Lectors. Alma reported good feedback from three attendees. Jennifer was glad to see old and new faces at the early service. Fr Fabio commented that this service can be led by commissioned lay ministers, and he will be asking some of them to lead it with or without him. He needs a motion to continue the three present services. Valerie so moved; Cecilia seconded; passed by oral vote.

Billy is not doing well, but the Pastoral Care committee hopes that he will be able to move home with care. Viviana lost an uncle, Adolphus with pains in the chest, and Lucy with family matters.

Fr Fabio reviewed the parish goals: strengthening, reaching out, and financial self-sufficiency.

Names of those we need to hold in prayer were mentioned at this time. The meeting was then closed with the Lord's Prayer by the group at 10:53 am.

The next meeting will be April 13, 2024.

Submitted March 16, 2024, by Mary Lu Rogers