

## Vestry Meeting 5-18-2024

**Attending:** Jennifer Khaleel, Alma Hurtado, Erica Harris, Lorenzo Clarke, Teresa Guzman, Darcey Tatum, Valerie Curry, Cecilia Midzi, Brendalyn Tamba-Dahn, and Martha Cuenca. Also attending were Fr Fabio Sotelo, William Paasewe.

**Absent:** Marck Morman, Ruth Mannah

The meeting was opened at 9:06 am by Fr Fabio with a reading from Acts followed by the vestry's reflections on the reading. Included were the realization of the blessing of diversity and the way that prayer is a universal language.

Bill gave the financial report for April: the collections in April reduced our deficit over the last 3 months down to \$3000 from \$16000. Hopefully the trend will continue. We also reduced expenses in April. He encouraged the vestry to continue coming up with creative ideas to create income for the church.

Darcey gave his last report on Journey to Gratitude last time with a total of \$215,000 in pledges, though a couple more came in after that.

Jeff Brown is to be our auditor this year at a cost of \$11000 of which we have \$9880 at present. Jennifer suggested passing a second plate at an offertory once a month for change and a bake sale to raise the extra money. Any extra money raised could be set aside for next year's audit. Darcey commented that Mr. Brown's estimate was \$10000 to which Darcey himself added \$1000 as a contingency addition. A three-month effort to raise what is needed can begin on the third Sunday in June, ending the third Sunday in August. Jennifer so moved; Valerie seconded; the motion passed. Jennifer moved that the vestry as a whole donate to the auditor fund; seconded by Brenda; motion passed.

Valerie reported that Family Promise is having a training later this year; she also asks for donations from each of the vestry and another two people addressed by each of the vestry. Darcey reported on the upkeep of the grounds and buildings: Jorge did so much work on the grounds and will be sorely missed. Others have volunteered to help, and Darcey and Alma are working on organizing the help. Alma reported that Nichole and Kathy want to hold an open house for parents to attract more of the 12:30 congregation, and they want new, bilingual materials.

VBS is getting ready. The deadline to sign up is June 9. This is for adults as well as children.

The Community Garden is going well and has only 2 or 3 beds needing planting. Cecelia asked about the increase in water usage and the bill. Fr Fabio responded that God will provide, and that this is a good project for the community. Also some of the community are working on a way to use rainwater and to get a grant to help with the garden.

We are planning a Town Hall meeting in August (no date set as yet) to keep the congregation informed and in touch with the vestry.

Cecelia, Valerie, and Alma are in the Lay diocesan training for church leaders. Jennifer moved that St. Edward's accept these three to be a part of the Lay Formation of the diocese: seconded by Erica; the motion carried.

Carla Strott is going on sabbatical in June and July. Gregory and Gustavo will lead the music in the services while she is away. Fr Fabio reported that this is a planned sabbatical, and unpaid. Paying Gregory and Gustavo will come under budget, so he hopes that we can give Carla a bonus.

Alma reached out to Georgia Grown and applied for us for a grant up to \$5000 for organizations who will use their output to help other people or organizations like Lawrenceville Co-op. The grant will be decided in December.

The Fall Festival will be held Saturday, September 21, 10 am to 4 pm. She requested the vestry volunteer for a couple of hours to assist. One change is that we will have food vendors and not ask our community to cook, but to wander and enjoy. The layout will be changed also. We need sponsors and vendors. Organizations, small businesses, even dentist or doctor offices would work: send information to Alma. We need help to spread the word. The flyers are ready. The next meeting will be June 2 at 2 pm.

Alma began suggesting a Farmer's Market a few months ago, since there is no Lawrenceville Farmer's Market. The main benefit is raising awareness that the church is here and connect with the area. The other benefit is connecting local farmers with the community. After reviewing the calendar, so proposed the fourth Saturday of each month, June through October, 9 am to 1 pm. Fee per vendor is \$35, aiming for 15 vendors at least, for each market. Initial investment includes city permit, tent permit, banner for advertising. Bernadette and Alma have agreed to run the market. Advertising will be through Georgia Grown, the city, county, and social media. The fee to apply for the permit should be around \$250. Will this be annual? We will have to see. Jennifer moved that work continue on the Farmer's Market; seconded by Lorenzo and Valerie; motion carried.

Fr Fabio plans to go to the church to help finish the planting in the community garden today.

Jorge our grounds keeper is in a detention center awaiting sentencing on July 29. His sentence may be from 5 to a maximum of 14 years followed by deportation. Lorenzo suggested that he and others from the church present impact statements at the sentencing. Meanwhile, Fr Fabio has a power of attorney to help handle his effects and is in contact with his family. Cecelia asked if Fr Fabio having power of attorney would be an issue to the Diocese of Atlanta. Darcey asked if Fr Fabio will be doing this as an individual and not on behalf of St. Edward's; his answer was yes.

Fostenal will be working with Darcey on maintaining the grounds with others, and Mike is already working on the Memorial Garden.

Tobias and Geraldo are putting together a food sale for June 9 between services: pork and chicken for lunch onsite or take away, to raise money for the church.

The bulletin will be smaller over the summer, to cut costs.

June 4-6 Fr Fabio will be at a multilingual conference where he was asked to present what we are doing at St. Edward's. We are an example for other diverse congregations.

We have permission from the Baptist Church to use their parking for the Fall Festival.

Hillary has been approved to clean up after events.

Alma and Erica will work on Facebook to create events for the festival and market.

At 11:03 am, Fr Fabio closed the meeting, asking prayers for those suffering, including Billy, Jorge, Ruth, Blanding, Carla and others. The meeting was then closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be June 15, 2024, via Zoom.

Submitted by Mary Lu Rogers on May 21, 2024.