

Vestry Meeting 8-17-2024

Attending: Brendalyne Tamba-Dahn, Marck Morman, Darcey Tatum, Jennifer Khaleel, Cecilia Midzi, Valery Curry, Ruth Mannah, Lorenzo Clarke. Also attending were Fr Fabio Sotelo, William Paasewe, and Mary Lu Rogers.

Absent: Alma Hurtado, Erica Harris, Martha Cuenca, Teresa Guzman

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Fr Fabio, with a reading from John 6. This was read sentence by sentence by members of the vestry, then the whole by Cecilia. Vestry members pointed out phrases and sentences that stood out to them, and why. Fr Fabio summed up with his reflections on the reading.

Bill gave the financial report, beginning with the audit which is in process as we speak. Jennifer has a meeting with the auditor next Thursday. His focus was on the state of the church's finances through June of this year, as this is what will be presented to the community at tomorrow's Town Hall Meeting. He encouraged the vestry to grow the endowment fund, to be used toward the rector's salary, to help prove to the Diocese that we can afford to call a rector. Darcey supports this. He reports that right now the endowment account is not directed to any specific purpose; he said that the vestry should make a resolution that the interest (**NOT the principal**) may be used toward the priest's salary. He would like to present this to the congregation before making the resolution. Valerie objected on the basis that the vestry was elected to lead and have been empowered to act. The Town Hall Meeting is not the Annual Meeting. Jennifer wants the congregation to be informed more often than once a year. Communication is the issue. Darcy pointed out that this Town Hall Meeting is the first one we will have that is focused on finances. Valerie asked that our leaders be very specific in language presenting our plans for the future. Jennifer will send out the agenda for the Town Hall Meeting right after the meeting.

Bill requested support for the fund raiser tonight for schools in Liberia.

Jennifer reported that VBS was a success; she has had positive feedback.

She asked every vestry member to be present at the Town Hall Meeting tomorrow.

So far, the audit collection has raised our amount to \$12,018. We will continue with the last scheduled second collection; any excess will be set aside for future audits.

Vestry members have not suggested any new ideas for fund raising, so she is still challenging the vestry for ideas.

Valerie and Cecilia are doing a lay formation study with the Diocese. Darcy moved that the church take \$200 for their fees to continue the study. Ruth seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The second Sunday of each month does not have a coffee hour sponsor. Gladys Tarpeh had two Sundays, and that was too much for her. Jennifer suggested that

the heads of ministry have their people to take a coffee hour on the second Sundays, with the vestry leading off on the second Sunday of September, the Brotherhood in October, then the Altar Guild, the choir, etc. If someone is involved in more than one ministry, then they would probably alternate between hosting groups as needed. It should take about four people to set up, minister, and clean up. She requested emails from members who will help her with the first one.

Fr Fabio reported that there is a new music director who is Gustavo Romero for the 12:30 service. Carla will be concentrating on artistic expression in the church. Already we have some dancing in the church, and she has other ideas for the church. Carla was willing to lower her pay a little so that Gustavo could be paid. They will work together on the bilingual services.

Marco has donated many hours of work fixing up the bathroom's downstairs, charging the church only the cost of materials.

Renovation of the parish hall will be done in stages; the floor will be the first thing. Most of the work will be volunteered. Then painters will work there. Bathrooms where the storage areas are will be perhaps next year.

Jennifer reported on the Fall Festival. We have three sponsors and two pending. Raffle tickets are moving slowly. Bernadette and Alma are asking for volunteers to help with the festival and to share flyers. Food tents will be run by parishioners. One of the entertainments proposed is a mechanical bull, which Alma reports will be less expensive than the water tank. Nicole says NO she does not like the idea its too risky for liability the vestry went along with not taking the risk. Fr Fabio and Cecilia and Valerie all find it too risky; they would rather dump Fr Fabio or Jennifer or Darcy in water multiple times. There will be a bouncy house and the water tank.

Jennifer thanked the vestry for their support. She will be talking to Barbara at the Diocese next week.

Fr Fabio thanked the vestry for his vacation to Puerto Rico; he feels rested and renewed and closer to his daughters. He has been checking on the sick and dying since coming home; some have Covid in the new wave of this disease. He visited Billy; he is at home in Hospice care and on medication only for pain. He is waiting for the Lord and positive in outlook. Fr Fabio went to see Jorge in court; he was sentenced to 10 years. Lorenzo went and testified in his favor. Fr Fabio is now a minister there at the jail and can go and pray with the inmates. He has reached out to Mother Irma to volunteer in the women's section. The vestry thanked Fr Fabio and Lorenzo for being there for Jorge.

Fr Fabio encouraged everyone to attend and support the Fall Festival and buy raffle tickets. He thanked everyone for their help in frugality with the church budget.

The meeting was ended with prayer specifically for Jorge, Billy, Shandi, Hilary and many others needing healing and the new school year, for the vestry and the staff. The Lord's Prayer concluded the meeting at 11:06 am.

The next meeting will be September 14, 2024, to avoid conflict with the Fall Festival. It will not conflict with the Brotherhood meeting at 11 am if it doesn't run late.

Submitted August 17, 2024.

Mary Lu Rogers, Clerk