

**St. James Vestry Agenda**  
**Thursday, July 12, 2018**  
**5:30 pm**

Participants: Rev. Dr. Mary Jayne Ledgerwood, Senior Warden Bob Keyser, Drew Downey, Sallie Smith, Callie Grisset, Jim Daniell, Bill Goetter, Terry Moore, Mary Hopkins Chamblin, George Huckaby, Dylan Wells, Junior Warden Bruce Stone, and Pel Henry/Treasurer, Meghan Fancher/Parish Administrator, Mary Mullins Redditt/Clerk of the Vestry

De Freeman opened the meeting in prayer at 5:43 pm.

**Opening Prayer & Recitation of the Mission Statement**

Then the vestry recited the below mission statement together.

*We are a community anchored in Christ, seeking God, sharing His love, and serving others.*

**Lectio Divinia**—Bill Goetter

Bill Goetter led a discussion of the Trinity from Genesis. He discussed the commonalities and the differences in interpretations. He shared a diagram from the Athanasian Creed, which shows neither are the same, but all are one.

The Richard Ohr book, *The Divine Dance* is an excellent discussion of the Trinity.

All then read a prayer from the Book of Common Prayer on the subject.

**Financial Update**—Pel Henry

For the month of June, we have received income of \$72.5 K v budget of \$95 K. We are down for the summer, which is not unexpected. Still, we are \$38-40 K ahead of this time last year.

Operating expenses are running below budget.

Salaries are down due to temporary staff changes, programs are also down, due primarily to the summer season.

Our expenses are \$75 K under budget for the year, and \$35 K below last year.

Expenses related to the School are \$31 K this month and \$56 K for the year.

We are beginning to use the funds the vestry pledged to the school.

Expenses are at a total of \$127 K.

We paid for some construction work up front, and used some from the building fund. Jim Ketchum feels like worst case scenario is that the school would only lose \$25 K for the year. We have 13 on the waiting list for next year. Believe the school will work out.

Will be sending out letter to seniors regarding minimum distributions for IRAs and want to encourage this. Will be drafting in August and sending out for vestry review.

Terry Moore made a motion to accept the Finance Report, Drew Downey seconded, and all approved.

## **Discussion**

### *Dementia Support Group Introduction—Mary Jayne Ledgerwood*

Mary Jayne provided a handout showing that two important dates are coming up. There is a task force of our parishioners for people who are caregivers for those with dementia. Wednesday, September 19 is the first meeting. Meeting will be tied into healing service at 10 am, afterwards there will be a program and panel for the next hour, followed by lunch for an hour. This will be hosted by the pastoral care committee. Following this, the Task Force hopes groups will form. Mary Hopkins mentions it is important to have someone to sit with the patient so the regular caregiver can attend. Mary Jayne said they will look into that. We may want to have some volunteers here that could sit with the patients while the caregivers attend the forum. A story will come out in the Anchor Lines next month.

This month, August 19, 11:15, in the Chapel, there will be a gathering of those serving in pastoral care. Mary Jayne urges the vestry to tell people about it.

### *Phone System/Administrative Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator/Employee Time – De Freeman*

The current phone system does not meet the needs for the new school. We are discussing with those who currently provide our system to see if we can take phones from other locations on our campus. Believe we will have to budget to spend more on the phone system in 2019. Bob says we have also had problems with our phone system coordinating with our alarm system. Meghan says STI is our current provider. Bruce recommends Harbor should be considered as a vendor. Our current 4-line system is already almost at full capacity. De is also considering Admin. Asst./Volunteer Coordinator to help answer phones, assist, coordinate volunteers.

### *Wedding Rental Discussion – De Freeman*

Discussed this at the vestry retreat. Our best asset here is the church; then the chapel. We are having people come to us to spend a significant moment in their lives and this is an opportunity that right now we are pushing away. We are missing the opportunity to minister to these people. This is evangelism.

It also creates a significant revenue stream to offset our costs, though it would increase the wear and tear on the facilities. If we are being honest about opening ourselves up and being welcoming, we should look at this.

De doesn't really need Vestry agreement on it, but wants discussion about it.

Jim Daniell asks what are the basic requirements, what are the criteria?

De says they have to be baptized; if Episcopal wedding, they would have to be confirmed and go for counseling session with one of our priests. If they come from another tradition, the presiding priest would have to be ordained and would have to meet a certain number of criteria. If people want to be married here, they would have to profess Christianity. Terry asks what resources you would have to draw on? A wedding coordinator? Music? Helen? De said we would talk to the current volunteer coordinators and, if necessary, we would hire a part time person to do so. Would not want to involve the Altar Guild to set and reset for this because they are busy enough. The wedding coordinator should be able to do this. Hypothetically, parishioners would have one set of costs and non-parishioners would have another. Drew asks if all the grounds would be open? De said he is thinking about the church, chapel and courtyard. Haven't fleshed out whether we would open Green Hall for receptions. Will continue to think about it because believe the calls will start coming in again in November. Sally recommends we think about the alcohol policy. De says we have an alcohol policy of beer, wine and no hard liquor and it must be in accompaniment to a non-alcoholic spiritual component. There is a certain finesse about addressing what is appropriate and inappropriate. Need to ensure our guidelines are strict and consistent.

#### *Convention Update – Bruce Stone*

Bruce says the date for the Diocesan Convention here at St. James is Thursday, Feb 14-16, 2019. Dwight Babcock is the Diocesan Liaison. The Diocesan office says they want us to keep committees to a minimum. We are well ahead of schedule. All hotel rooms have been reserved (2 in Fairhope and 2 in Daphne). Bruce is Chair and Ann Fargason is Co-Chair. Also registration committee is chaired by Evelyn Garrett, Grounds by Drew and Eddie Webster; Kitchen by Alice Webb with Bebe Goetter, Gala on Friday night is chaired by Jeanie Smith. John Glover and Russell Buster are co-chairs. Berglin's will be catering and Hotwire will be playing at the Nix Center. The Clergy Spouse luncheon is chaired by Fonda Wilson and the host is Teresa Smith and the lunch will be at her home on Saturday. Volunteers will have opportunities to serve and it will be published in the Anchor Lines beginning this fall.

#### *Service Times – De Freeman*

Jim Ketchum has been working on determining whether we need to continue with three services. He has crunched the numbers and determined that we need to have three services to sustain ourselves. Avg. Sunday attendance for the year is 432; for the summer this number falls off to 357. Will move back to 7:30 (Chapel), 9, and 11. Will return to this schedule on September 9. Rally Day is August 26. Have been averaging 95 at the 8:30 service this summer. The 10 am service has been robust.

#### *School Update – Terry Moore*

Building is in the detail state. Outstanding items include access control. Have four bidders right now; also need to paint the restrooms, prepare bulletin boards. The biggest activity is on the playground. Have had one shipment of equipment and the

rest should arrive next week, ready for weekend setup. Need to get the phone service set up there. We are also working with Anne on VBS.

The school has two major classrooms. We have 17 students in the younger class and 5 students in the older class. We have 13 students on the waiting list for 2019. Russell Buster and Randy Sternberg will handle the management of the construction. With lots of volunteers contributing, there has been a lot accomplished. Bob says Terry has taken this on almost as a full time job and he deserves our gratitude. August 17 is the first day of the pre-school. We want it to feel like an extension of home for the students.

### **Other**

Have had Mike Baugh look at our sound system in the Church and try to make it work. Is unlikely because we have only low grade components. Are looking at options and don't have a good solution without purchasing a whole new system. Also next year the FCC is changing the band width and we don't want to have a new but antiquated system in place. Will likely put this back on the agenda for next year.

Stewardship campaign is coming up. Bob discussed with Jim Ketchum. While not all agree with what is in the *Treasure Principle*, it is a good starting point for discussion. Want to tie the first communications to Rally Day, so that parishioners are thinking about their time, talent and treasure. Also want to weave in the endowment plan. First communication will be in the next Anchor Lines.

De reminds all that we are the ambassadors of the church and we should be present at church-wide events.

### **Decision**

*June Vestry Retreat Business Session Minutes – Bob Keyser*

Terry Moore made a motion to accept the minutes, Drew Downey seconded and all approved.

### **Closing Prayer**

Mary Jayne closed in prayer at 7:07.