

St. James Vestry Meeting
Thursday, April 19, 2018
5:30 pm

Participants: Rev. De Freeman, Rev. Dr. Mary Jayne Ledgerwood, Bob Keyser/Senior Warden, Bruce Stone/Junior Warden, Travis Youngblood, Drew Downey, George Huckabay, Sallie Smith, Jim Daniell, Bill Goetter, Effie Thompson, Dylan Wells, Callie Grissett, Parish Administrator Meghan Fancher, and Clerk of the Vestry Mary Mullins Redditt

Bob Keyser opened the meeting at 5:34 pm with prayer.

Opening Prayer & Recitation of the Mission Statement

The gathered then recited the mission statement and considered a meditation provided by Rev. De Freeman

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

Vestry Meditation—Rev. De Freeman

De offered, and the vestry considered, the Prayer for Daily Meditation that is a combination of passages from Genesis and Exodus. At the conclusion, the vestry then said the Lord's Prayer together.

Discussion

Preschool update—Bob Keyser

Randy Sternenberg is overseeing the renovation work being done. Have taken two of the walls down and replaced some doors. Electrician was here this week. We currently have a total of 13 students registered, 9 in pre-K 3 and 4 in pre-K 4 Shelley has been busy discussing the pre-school with parents at the Library and will also have a booth at Earth Day this Saturday. Donations continue to come in with \$8 K to date. There is a matching offer in the amount of \$30-35 K for the church to be used for the playground. We will build the playground one way or the other. The facilities improvements are all beneficial whether for the pre-school or not. Vestry will determine whether or not to include these funds in the pre-school fundraising goals or not. We have publicized that we need 60% of the fundraising goal completed by May 31, but we have been advised that it is more important to have the students enrolled than have all the necessary funding in place. Need 60% of the 34 students – or 20 -- enrolled by August. Have 13 now. This is what is necessary to pay Shelley Miller's salary. We have \$7,944 in the pre-school fund and another \$8K pledged through the Giving Tree. De says he will ask Jim Ketchum to re-allocate the funds to provide us a clear picture of where we are and where we need to be. We may not be that far off from our goals. There are a lot of moving parts as to what

will work here. Some children are already registered elsewhere and parents may be taking a wait-and-see attitude once they know the pre-school will move forward.

Anonymous Trust

St. James is the beneficiary of an anonymous trust that will be distributed once the individual is deceased. There are two trustees and one of them is recently deceased (Betty Jo Wolff). De has asked Drew Downey if he would serve in her stead along with the other trustee, Mac Walcott. De read a resolution to be effective April 20, 2018 if $\frac{3}{4}$ of the vestry approves (copy attached). Bill Goetter made a motion to approve, Sallie Smith seconded and all approved. It will need signatures of the Sr. Warden and the Clerk.

Parish update—De Freeman

De discussed some participation numbers with the vestry.

--For Easter last year (2017) we had 1,092 participate in services

--This year, we had 1,097 (in spite of spring break).

--We ended the year 2017 with avg. Sunday attendance of 413

--Before Easter 2018 this number had increased to 456; and we are now seeing 472. We will move to two services on Pentecost, May 20, and those services will be held at 8:30 and 10 am, both in the church.

At the end of May 20 services all pews will be removed from the church and Bay Flooring will rebuff and recoat the floors and will reinstall the pews. We will miss May 27 in the church, and have "Mass on the Grass" in the parking meadow with a folk band. We will resume services in the church the following Sunday, June 3. There will be a tent for Mass on the Grass and we will make it a fun Sunday. The 8:30 service will not have music.

We are pleased with our new associate priest!

Determine Date for Vestry Retreat

We want to ensure we are organized before big upcoming events, like Diocesan Convention so would like to host a vestry retreat with a Friday evening reception and the following Saturday work session at the church. Mary and Dylan Wells will host the Friday evening reception. After consulting schedules, the consensus was that it will be held June 15-16.

Decision

Silver crosses—De Freeman

We need to purchase 20 new crosses for senior acolytes at \$138 each, so will need \$2800 for the purchase. Since this is over the staff spending threshold, we need vestry approval. Travis Youngblood made a motion, Bill Goetter seconded and all approved.

March Vestry Meeting Minutes—Bob Keyser

Bob asked the vestry to review and comment on or approve the meeting minutes from March. Bruce Stone made a motion, it was seconded by Bill Goetter. Then there was some discussion and Sallie Smith noted that the minutes from the pre-school report needed to correct the minimum number of students from 34 to 20. All agreed and approved with the noted change. Mary Mullins Redditt thanked Sallie Smith for serving as Clerk in her absence at the March meeting.

Financial Update—Bob Keyser

Have \$95,479 in income, which is \$479 over what was expected. School expenses are running under budget. We are \$68 ahead of expenses for the month. We have been running “in the black” every month this year so far and that has not happened this early in the year in the last 10 years. We hope this positive trend will continue. We have unrestricted cash of \$398 K which is equivalent to 4 months cash reserves (we target having 3 months), so are in a good position there. The financial report should be corrected to ensure it reads March and not February. School funds are listed under the temporarily restricted cash column on page 4. There is \$3788 in the building fund. The mission trip coming up and there will be a need for \$1800 in expenses there. \$1,018 has been used for updating the rose garden, and the financials also show a deposit toward the sabbatical. Several memorials are listed. \$10,000 is budgeted for Diocesan Convention that St. James will host next year. Pre-school funds are restricted from the operating account for now, with \$1,500 moved over to the operating expenses. We don’t anticipate any big expenses coming up. The Diocese will pay for expenses to host the convention and Bruce Stone said he will meet with Dwight Babcock on May 3 about the diocesan contribution for hosting and the gala. Fees for attendance go into the budget for St. James expenses. Should not be an expense to St. James, but in reality, we will probably spend some funds to prepare. Effie Thompson made a motion to approve the financials, George Huckabay seconded and all approved.

Other

Leslie Guilian will be stepping down from Children’s Ministry to be a full-time Mom, though she has been gracious to defer her retirement due to other transitions here at St. James. Her last Sunday is coming up at the end of this month and we will plan something special to properly thank her for her service. De has asked Anne McEniry to become head of formation for the church. She will have someone acting under her in a volunteer capacity to handle Sundays. If for any reason, we are unable to begin the pre-school this year, we want to be in a position to keep our options open, potentially having Shelley fill in with Children’s Ministry. The announcement about Anne will be coming out in the May *Anchorlines*.

Callie Grissett noted that this Sunday is a Taize service, a really nice time for quiet contemplation over 30-40 minutes Sunday night at 7 pm in the chapel. She encouraged all who can to attend.

Bob noted that all have received a copy of *The Treasure Principal*. We are also passing out this evening a study guide and will discuss the book at the next vestry meeting, especially the first three questions.

Closing

The Rev. Dr. Mary Jayne Ledgerwood closed the meeting in prayer at 6:23.

The next vestry meeting will be held May 17.

Submitted by Clerk of the Vestry Mary Mullins Redditt