

St. James Vestry Meeting
Thursday, March 15, 2018
5:30 pm

Participants: Bob Keyser/Senior Warden, Bruce Stone/Junior Warden, Mary Hopkins Chamblin, Drew Downey, Travis Youngblood, Callie Grissett, Sallie Smith, Terry Moore, Bill Goetter, George Huckabay, Dylan Wells, Effie Thompson, Treasurer Pel Henry, and Parish Administrator Meghan Fancher.

Bob Keyser opened the meeting at 5:40 pm with a prayer.

Opening Prayer & Recitation of the Mission Statement

The gathered then recited the mission statement adding to the beginning, "We are. . .":
We are a community anchored in Christ, seeking God, sharing His love, and serving others.

Lectio Divina

Bob Keyser presented a meditation on Luke 12:22-34 based on the questions: Are we committed to God? Can we trust in him? Peace can be found in more prayer and less worry.

Discussion & Decision

Treasurer's Report- Pel Henry

We have never been this well positioned with our budget this early in the year. We are running about \$7K above normal income and about 24% ahead of this time last year. The new pre-school budget of \$138 K is divided over a period of four months, and we are under budget for February. We have received \$5,200 in donations to the Giving Tree in Green Hall for the pre-school. Bill Goetter made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Terry Moore seconded, and all approved.

Pre-school Report -Bob Keyser

May 31st is the deadline for the pre-school to have raised 60% of the funds it needs to operate and for a minimum of 20 students to be enrolled. Building modifications to the Mark H. Wilson Education Building are being made with flooring provided by Rush Garrett, electrical and plumbing by John Witherington, and volunteer work by other parishioners. As the floor is being replaced, furniture is being moved to one side of the building and then replaced as work continues. Handicapped entrances are being discussed for the Church and the pre-school. Fundraising will follow a targeted campaign. Terry Moore encouraged all to come up with additional Giving Tree ideas. We should encourage groups to donate together. Communication will be vital. Effie Thompson mentioned traditional pre-school registration deadline as May 31. Callie Grissett said that talking up the new pre-school is also an encouragement for more to join St. James. The pre-school will serve ages 2 ½-5 years of age.

Resolution for Housing Allowance for Associate Priest- The Rev. Dr. Mary Jayne Ledgerwood

Mary Jayne requested a resolution that \$15K of her salary be allocated for housing. Bill Goetter made a motion to accept, Drew Downey seconded and there was discussion. Dylan Wells asked if this was for IRS purposes. It was explained that these funds are not

in addition to Mary Jayne's salary, but that portion of her salary be designated for housing according to Diocesan guidelines.

Request by Altar Guild—Bob Keyser

Bob said that Elaine Estefan has requested \$350 to purchase a silver lavabo bowl for hand washing. Callie Grissett made a motion to accept the request, Terry Moore seconded and there was discussion. Mary Hopkins Chamblin asked about the Altar Guild's budget. All approved.

February Vestry Minutes – Bob Keyser

Bob asked all the vestry members to review the meeting minutes from February. Effie Thompson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Drew Downey seconded and all approved.

Letter regarding new church service times– Bob Keyser

Bob led discussion of a letter De had received questioning whether the additional service time is being well regarded. Mary Hopkins Chamblin provided a chart of attendance at all available services from 2015-2018 to aid in the discussion. The chart and numbers show a clear trend in upward attendance and stewardship. Effie Thompson shared some concerns she had heard that spreading out church service times might be creating a lack of community. No other vestry members have heard from parishioners with any concerns. The vestry discussed committing to finding additional ways to create fellowship between services. Mary Hopkins and Bob Keyser said that the vestry needs to arm themselves with the facts and communicate the benefits positively to parishioners so they understand the rationale. There was some discussion about the different choirs at the 9 and 11 am services. Helen Rodgers has started a new youth choir that sings at the 11 am service and she is still feeling out the nuances of the choirs. Meghan Fancher reminded that we will begin two services for the summer season beginning May 20 – an 8:30 and 10 am service, both in the Church.

Other

- The vestry will host the Lenten Dinner in Green Hall next Wednesday, March 21 and there was a call for help.
- There will be a walk-through scheduled for vestry duty lockup at a later date. One additional item is that the vestry members on duty will pull the trash cans in the circle down to the sidewalk.
- There will be a discussion at the next vestry meeting of the Treasure Principle book that was provided to all members.

Closing Prayer

Bob Keyser adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm and all recited The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Sallie Smith for Clerk of the Vestry Mary Mullins Redditt.