

November 13, 2023
St. Thomas' Vestry Meeting

Present: Elizabeth Moran, senior warden; Br. Donovan Bowley, junior warden; Rev. Paul Briggs, interim rector; Anne Rogers-Popejoy, clerk; Terry Mello, treasurer.

Gwen Prosser, Jacqueline Recht, Jan Lyle, Kendra Watkins.

Absent: Sarah Groman, Benjy Lowry

Meeting opens at 6:30 pm with Dwelling in the Word - Luke 10:1-12.

Stewardship: Jan and Terry

-Pancake breakfast this Sunday, November 19.

- Stewardship minutes: many thanks to those offering their stories at each service, and to Terry and Jan for heading up the Stewardship Committee.

Communications & Administration:

-Interim rector has ordered Forward Movement's vestry resources for this group to utilize.

-Annual meeting will be January 28, with a snow date of February 4. Suggestions include having one service at 9am and the meeting immediately following; within the context of the eucharist; a celebration of our lives together; or a single business meeting following the 10am service.

-Nominations for vestry:

- Jacqueline and Gwen have two years left in their terms.
- Sarah has one year left in her term.
- Benjy and Kendra have completed their terms, but are eligible to run again.
- Jan has completed her term and is not eligible to run again.
- Anne has been elected, but is holding until an admin is hired.

We need:

- 3 people for 3 year terms;
- 1 person for a 2 year term;
- 2 people for a 1 year term.

The rector asks this group to consider people who would be strong additions to the vestry.

Elizabeth, Jan and Rev. Paul will serve as the nominating committee; anyone in this group who is interested in joining should contact Elizabeth.

-Part-time parish administrator: one offer extended and declined. Gwen has made a suggestion, and the interim rector will follow up.

-Terry is working on Realm database, and will continue training and begin inputting data. She requests help with data input, and will keep us posted.

-Memorial Garden Committee: Sarah Groman is the vestry contact for the committee; Bill Freeman and Lucy Ebbert have expressed interest as well; the committee will operate with oversight of the rector.

-Phone system assessment: Diane and Terry are both working to contact the phone company, High Tech in Thomaston, and hoping to upgrade and resolve issues.

Diocesan:

Convention Report: Donovan and Anne reported that convention ran smoothly and that the pre-convention meetings were essential. Anne encourages anyone interested to consider being a delegate. More details can be found on the Diocesan website; Carlos Mello is on the Diocesan Board of Trustees and is also an excellent resource for questions.

Community Events:

-No Thanksgiving meal this year

-No December Fair, but there will be a bake sale during Christmas by the Sea on December 3.

-Support for Summer Fair: discussion followed regarding the ability and interest to host both; and the need for two separate committees.

-Parents and children cleaned out the Godly Play room to ready it for Sunday school.

-Recap of security training from last year, and acknowledgement of need for more as well as an assessment from law enforcement. Jan will reach out to law enforcement.

-Treasurer explains that \$1000 from the 2023 Summer Fair is held for the next fair; \$1300 went to outreach; \$1000 to operating. This group concurs with this split of the approximately \$3500 proceeds.

Donovan moves to accept the September and October minutes as read: second Jan.

Outreach: Gwen.

Knox County Homeless Coalition has moved their Christmas giving online; the Outreach Committee would like to identify local families in need. Kendra will look into how to help children in DHS custody without foster homes.

Property

-Meeting with Sargeant Lock on 11/16: is it economically feasible to change all the locks?.

Meeting will include discussion of 3 levels: community groups, parish activities, executive staff.

-Alarm system needs to be reviewed; will work toward regularly alarming the building again.

-No updates on the legal status of the Tower reports Senior Warden.

-Organ has been repaired and tuned, and came in under estimate.

-Flower room floor raising in process; pew exchanged near lectern.

Interim Updates

Pastoral visits continue; meeting with families and youth was enthusiastic and successful; notes have been shared with this group. Altar guild meeting was very successful with impressive engagement from the parish.

Worship:

Dec. 3 - Advent Lessons & Carols at 10 a.m.

Dec. 24 - Advent 4 (one service at 9:00 a.m.)
Dec. 24 - Christmas Pageant & Eucharist (5 p.m.)
Candlelight Choral Eucharist (10 p.m.)
Dec. 25. Christmas Day Eucharist (10 a.m.)
Dec. 31. Christmas I (8 & 10)
Jan. 5 Epiphany party and Candlelight Compline?

Search Process:

Recommendation to purchase an assessment tool from Holy Cow Consulting; this group conducts the research and then reports back to the parish. Vestry should look at the website. Elizabeth notes that Kelli McGuire, parishioner, has experience with Holy Cow.

Finance: Terry Mello, Treasurer

Things are looking better than anticipated. We are exceeding budget. To date, we have utilized less endowment income than projected, and have a loss to date of approximately \$15,000 rather than the \$28,000 projected. The treasurer is optimistic about the state of the budget. Will work to send a thank you and updated pledge balance to parishioners in December.

Received a bequest of approximately \$11,400 from David and Anne Montgomery. The treasurer recommends that it be invested in the money market account. The gift will be included in the "special donations" category. The senior warden notes that the Montgomerys were passionate about historic preservation. **The vestry agrees to invest the bequest in the money market account.**

Date and Time of next meeting:

December 10: meeting devoted to budget scheduled for after the 10am service.
Tuesday, January 9 at 6pm.