

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting-Wednesday, September 25, 2024

The Rev. Nick VanHorn called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm and gave a devotional. Those in attendance were Carol Davis, Matthew Phillips, Salem Parham, Charlotte Broughton, Sheldon Moser, Jack Scruggs, Ralph Womble, Elizabeth Repetti, Keith Gooze, Morris Friedman, Victoria Bass, Tom McDowell, and Betsy Reiners.

Nick called for approval of the minutes from August 28, 2024, as presented. Ralph made a motion to approve, and Elizabeth seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tom McDowell presented the year-to-date numbers. Pledges are down for the month of August and 141K for the year. Excess maintenance expenses have been covered by vestry votes. Outreach expense overages are due to the timing of outlays by OFAC committee. The deficit is due mainly to pledges running behind. Pledge statements will go out in mid-October.

Stewardship director, Victoria Bass reported on the Cheerful Giving Gatherings and said they were a great success. They were a good vehicle for getting information to parishioners and offered opportunities for folks to evangelize about their St. Paul's experience. Victoria said she and the committee are all set for the kickoff this Sunday, September 29.

In new business, Nick updated the vestry on what is happening with the St. Paul's scout troop. Nick said the implementation of the troop combining with Christ's Beloved Community has stalled a bit due to leadership, but he is still confident this will happen. Nick asked for approval to use 2000.00 from the scout fund to buy uniforms and supplies for the troop as it is now at CBC. Matthew Phillips moved to approve, and Carol Davis seconded the motion.

In the Rector's report, Sr. warden, Matthew Phillips, in the absence of the rector, asked for 5000.00 from the vestry undesignated fund to cover travel and accommodation expenses for the Master of Chorister and Schola candidate visits. Morris Friedman moved to approve, and Salem Parham seconded the motion. The motion passed.

In the clergy report, Nick reported for the Rev. Lucy Strandlund that Sunday services are full, and attendance numbers are up. She and the clergy have continued to be busy with funerals and families are responding with gratitude for the pastoral care they receive during these sad times. The Diocesan Clergy conference will be meeting here on September 24 and 25 and will host diocesan staff, bishops and clergy as they gather to connect and reflect. Lucy gives thanks for Communications Coordinator, Laura Hoffman who is doing two jobs while Jason Franklin is on sabbatical. Nick echoed all of Lucy's report.

For the Sr. warden's report, Matthew said he would save his for Pastoral session, coming up after the meeting is adjourned.

Jr. warden, Morris Friedman updated the vestry on the paver project and the new outdoor signage being planned.

Planned Giving liaison, Morris Friedman said three new members have joined the 1876 Society. Victoria is working with Jason to update the materials used to advertise this giving opportunity.

Senior adults ministry liaison, Jack Scruggs reported there was a big crowd for the recent senior lunch when a Sleep specialist talked about what we know about the importance of sleep to the brain. The ROSES (Reach Out and Serve an Episcopal Senior) had a recent training for new volunteers. Two new volunteers, Gail Kirkwood and Meriwether Wilson have taken on the Flower Surprise ministry, previously done by Hal Brown.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm with Pastoral and Executive Sessions to follow.