

St. Stephens Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes

October 10, 2017

In attendance: Katy Allen, Jackie Ingersoll, Alice Moss, Paula Somerville, Rob Redmer, Norma Ross, Karol Sprague, Roy Waters and Justin Wojas. Absent: Mother Susan, Scott Armstrong, Alan Giles and Richard Kenefic.

I. Opening

A. Norma started the meeting with a prayer for guidance and protection. The prayer served as our reflection as well.

B. Rector's report was submitted in writing to Alice. Mother Susan is attending the All Episcopal Network bi-annual conference on Mackinac Island. Her letter to the vestry is attached.

II. Regular Business

A. Consent calendar: The minutes for June, August and September were approved.

B. The financial report was submitted. Katy noted that income and spending are below budget.

C. Reports

1. Building and Grounds member Justin submitted report. He stressed that the twinned furnaces for the Nave are of high importance. The goal is to catch problems or future problems and have rotating scheduled maintenance before they become costly. They are also trying for quarterly meetings. Rob inquired about carpet in Fellowship Hall.

2. SOS Week was reviewed by Corinne Fragnoli. She is continuing to document hours donated to SOS and asks for our help. She will bring the sign-in book to church to gather more hours. She was reminded to continue tracking her own hours following SOS week. Corinne reported that the church accomplished the same tasks as last year with fewer workers and hours. Part of this is due to Miranda Spates and the school bus. It was suggested that the vestry thank Troy Public Schools for the loan. Katy volunteered to write the thank you letter. Corinne also shared that she feels more energy and excitement in the church since SOS. The whole church backed the project. The s'mores and the fire pit were a big hit with the guests. There was concern over the changing make-up of the guests. The presence of more children may change our program and approach. The building availability on Saturday was used by nine people. The SOS committee would like to continue that practice next year. The Vestry thanked Corinne and her co-workers for their hard work and success for SOS.

D. Stewardship: See Strategic Planning Committee below

III. Strategic/Mission Focus

A. Strategic Planning Committee will be sponsoring small group meetings in homes to discuss "where your money goes". Mother Susan is sending a letter to inform parishioners. The SPC meeting will be on October 22 to discuss details.

B. Reconcile and Reconnect Counseling: Mother Susan discussed her training seminars and fees in her written Rector's Report. Some tuition has been covered by Mother Susan's discretionary fund because the continuing education budget was already encumbered. The Chicago class tuition for Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process is \$1,075.00. Alice will send a link to this workshop. It covers interpersonal relations between clergy and committees, secretaries, office assistants and other staff. Alice mentioned that there is a good feeling in the office.

C. Evaluation: The Human Resources Committee will meet with Mother Susan on October 16th to discuss her evaluation, contract and current training.

D. Calendar: Justin suggested we review how events are publicized. To place an event in *The Witness* and in the church bulletin one should talk to Jacki. The official source is the church

calendar. We should look for ways to make this clear to everyone in the church as more people get involved in planning.

IV. Coming events

A. St. John's Food Pantry on October 14 needs six people to distribute food.

B. Norma described a new offering, sponsored by the Adult Faith Committee It will begin November 5th. She and Chris Fuhr will lead a book discussion at 9 o'clock on Sundays in November and the first three weeks in December. Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *Altar in the World, A Geography in the World* will be the focus of the class. The book is available on-line. Chris and Norma will not purchase extra copies. Copies are available in public libraries.

C. Adult care is a concern. Are we responding to our older population? Pastoral Care Committee will look into this. Karol will contact committee members, Scott and Miranda Spates, about this.

D. Fall clean-up is November 4th.

E. The St. Stephens Christmas Walk will be December 2nd at 6PM. The stops are the Pierce, the Redmer and the Ingersoll homes.

F. October 20th is the hayride and hot dog roast.

V. Reminder to have Vestry nominations ready for next meeting.

VI. Closing: Alice closed with a prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM.

Karol Sprague, Clerk