

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting December 18, 2013

Present: The Rev. Sarah Phelps, The Rev. Paula Vukmanic, Sr. Warden David Cannom, Jr. Warden Gary Stephenson, Nancy Backes, John Bukowski, Mary Ann Cronin, Blair Hinz, P.J. Kuyper, Fabrizio Pela, Bud Allen, Mark Hamilton, Gayle Taylor

Not Present: David Menninger

Also Attending: Business Manager Elaine Mistele, Parish Treasurer Fred Henry. "Garden Angels" Marcia Schoettle and Colette Furbush

The meeting was called to order by Mo. Sarah at 7:10 pm: she gave the opening prayer. The members reflected on Matthew 1:18-25.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Elaine reported a positive November of \$4,928.80, bringing the year-to-date negative down to \$10,225.30. Our monthly share to the Diocese has been paid on time every month for the first time in quite some years! She gave rough figures on the Kris Kringle Faire: Income - \$10,880; expenses - \$3675 for a projected net profit close to \$7,214. This amount may increase by several hundred dollars. All agree the event was a success in every way!

Gary updated the infrastructure assessments. Good news: the sump pump has a new sensor which is working well. Long range planning must include a new sump pump and pipes, a major expense. Gary is waiting for the electrical quote; the electrician has been ill. Gary then introduced Marcia and Colette who made a presentation regarding Step One of the landscaping project. Marcia has been working with an expert landscape designer whom she knows personally. The first focus is to be on the entry/St. Francis garden. Due to poor drainage, shade, soil, etc., grass has not proved to be a viable option. The design presented will replace the grass with crushed granite, more drought tolerant plants, a new irrigation system and features that will compliment the beauty of the church's stained glass windows. Plants that are thriving will remain or be moved to compliment the design. Marcia has offered to underwrite this project. She also explained the need to take on one area of our vast campus at a time; other issues will be addressed later.

The Vestry is extremely grateful for this generous gift. Gary will write an insert for the Sunday bulletin explaining the project to the parish so there won't be concern when things start getting torn up just after Christmas.

Plans were discussed for the Farewell Celebration for Ray Urwin on January 5th.

Mo. Sarah said the final summaries from the Cottage Meetings will be studied at the Vestry Retreat to be held in late February or March.

Mary Ann will represent the Vestry on the Organist/Accompanist Search Committee led by Jeannie Cobb. Blair volunteered to serve as a back-up member when Mary Ann is unable to attend.

MOTION: Fabrizio Pela moved up to 50% of the salary of The Rev. Sarah Phelps and 50% of the salary of The Rev. Paula Vukmanic be designated as housing allowance for tax purposes. The motion was seconded and PASSED.

Mo. Sarah discussed plans that are in place for the smooth operation of St. Francis while she is on Sabbatical. She has covered all but \$1800 of her expenses for the Davidson Center week. Bishop Bruno has indicated he will make up the deficit.

Discussion continued regarding nominations for Vestry positions and Convention delegates. P.J. announced he must offer his resignation due to heavy work and family obligations. The news was received with regret but understanding. This will open an additional Vestry position to fill with a term of one year.

Mo. Sarah announced her appointment of Fabrizio Pelá as Senior Warden for 2014. Applause followed!

Mark Hamilton volunteered to be the Vestry convention delegate in 2014.

A “rough, rough” draft of the proposed 2014 budget was presented and discussed. The budget will be ready for the Vestry’s approval by the January 15th meeting and presented to the Parish at the Annual Meeting on January 26th. The new Vestry will meet IMMEDIATELY following the Annual Meeting to elect the Junior Warden and set a date for the Vestry Retreat in late February or March. Bring calendars!

Mark closed the meeting at 9:09 pm with a prayer.

Barbara Carpenter, Clerk