

St. James Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
March 9, 2016

Present: Donella Barney, Terry Channing, Karen Derr, Nick Forenz, Esther Kowulich-Covell, Donna Noteware, Anne Oates, Connie VanHouten, Mary White, rev. Lynne Sharp

Absent: Gregg Learned, Joan Rogerson

Rev. Sharp opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 P.M.

Donella Barney noted that "publicize" was misspelled.

Nick Forenz moved to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Donella Barney. Carried.

Rector's Report

1. There will be a calendar on the bulletin board for church functions.
2. Calvin McCabe will be baptized on May 15 and the family will do Coffee Hour.
3. Rev. Sharp would like to schedule a day where the vestry would look at goals that were set and to assess what has been achieved and what is yet to be reached. The second half of the day would be addressing stewardship with a volunteer from the diocese.

Senior Warden's Report (Terry Channing)

1. The opening to the chimney in the Sunday School/Food Pantry Room has been covered.
2. Terry met with the snow removal person, Ivan Stopka, and settled the invoiced work.
3. The broken fans in the sanctuary will be replaced, as will the outside light at the main entrance; the speaker that was left after the installation of the new audio system will be removed. Dailey Electric of Penn Yan will do the work.

Karen Derr moved, seconded by Donna Noteware, to approve the work and to pay for it from the Renovation Fund. Carried.

Junior Warden's Report (Mary White)

1. Recycle bins are unavailable at the Village Offices, but are available online for \$20, however any container could be used.

2. The Village is doing an Earth Day Fair April 23rd and Mary thought the church could have a presence. A suggestion was to pass out reusable grocery bags.

Treasurer's Report (Karen Derr)

Esther Kowulich–Covell moved, seconded by Nick Forenz, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Carried.

1. Loan Repayment: There is a restricted savings account where money is borrowed to pay regular bills, as well as a restricted account where funds are placed for loan repayment. \$14,000 was borrowed in 2015.

Terry Channing moved, seconded by Mary White, to repay the restricted savings account the \$14,000 from the Reserve for Loan Repayment account. Carried.

Buildings and Grounds (Nick Forenz)

1. Work Day will be May 14, beginning at 8:00 A.M. Karen Derr will get 5–6 students to volunteer to help. Esther Kowulich–Covell and Donna Noteware will coordinate equipment and a checklist of tasks.
2. May 7 will be the Smorgasbord Dinner with Donna Noteware and Anne Oates overseeing.
3. May 14 the Food Pantry will be having an Open House from 2:00–4:00 P.M.
4. Gregg Learned will check on prices for two Dual Zone Heat pumps.
5. All St. James people have completed Safe Church, except two who need the refresher.

Visioning

1. Game night is this Saturday, March 12.
2. Ideas are needed for a summer activity.
3. There is no community calendar as yet, but it is expected that we will participate in the known events of the Art show, Boat Show and Craft Show.
4. Road signs advertising St. James are \$300 each, with the possibility of three needed. Permission will be needed from the State and the Country and Mary White has already been in contact with a State representative.
5. Publicity and Signage: a more permanent way than the sandwich board is needed to advertise church events. Esther suggested using money that may be available within the Diocese or Southeast District. Nick will look into options and pricing.
6. Anne Oates reported on the Southeast District meeting:

- “How to Keep a Giving Spirit Alive Day to Day” was presented by Geneva layperson Sharon Arthur, as well as how to make a pledge campaign interesting.
- Outreach: there is grant money available through South East District. A letter outlining the church’s plan for outreach needs to be sent. June and September are the next meetings.
- The global mission focus this year is Episcopal Relief and Development for Syrian Christian refugees.

Other

1. Use of Parish Hall

- Rev. Sharp needs clarity as well as guidelines as to who can use the parish hall and for what purpose. Many issues need to be considered among which are septic system, wear and tear on furniture, and donation for use guidelines.

2. Nursery area

- Consideration could be given to using the Food Pantry Space. Rev. Sharp will talk with community clergy re: Food Pantry location.
- Mary White will talk with Bud Meade (Mercury Aircraft) and Mike Doyle (Pleasant Valley Winery) re: possible locations.

Terry Channing moved, seconded by Nick Forenz, that the Food Pantry find another location to allow St James room for expansion and to better serve the community by September 1. Carried.

3. Christmas Decorations

- There was confusion as to where things were, what needed to be done and by whom this past Christmas season. Donna Noteware and Luanne Graulich stepped up and oversaw completion of Greening of the Church.

4. Angel Tree: since the food pantry donation basket is presented weekly, there may be no need to do the angel tree as in the past.

The general consensus is that there is no clear description of what needs to be done in the parish and who is responsible.

- 5. “Seeing the Face of God” is a Diocesan program where it is hoped each parish would read three books this year. The theme for this year is how we historically and now participate in racism and slavery.

Mary White offered the closing prayer at 8:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
 Carol Bidwell
 Clerk of the Vestry

