

St. Helena's Episcopal Church and School

Vestry Minutes

August 15, 2023

Vestry Present: Steve Drukker, Cindy Glick, Perri Rosheger, Beth Adam, Adam Groenhuyzen, Amy Purcell, Tommy Mathews

Vestry Absent: Todd Calder, Gary Frashier, Ted Geer, Jennifer Shelby, Sarah Davis

Clergy: Rev. Jamie George

Staff/Treasurer: Bob Myer, Pam Boutte

Call to Order: 6:03 PM

Devotional: Tommy opened the meeting by asking us to consider the definition of the word Hallelujah. After several weighed in, there was consensus on defining it as praising and expressing gratitude – joyful praise for the Lord. Tommy asked that each of us share one thing for which we are thankful.

Rector's Time:

- Mother Jamie providing information on the following activities:
 - Crossfinder went out this month one hundred percent digitally.
 - Fall Sunday School begins September 17 for adults, children, and youth.
 - Fr. John will be teaching an 8-week newcomer's course.
 - Mother Jamie will be teaching an 8- to 9- week series on Scripture study on the Apostle Paul in Galatians that begins October 4. The women will meet at 11 AM and there will be a Parish-wide option through a dinner series in the evening.
 - 35 women have signed up for the Women's Retreat taking place in Port Aransas September 29-October 1.

Senior Wardens Time:

- Tommy has spoken with the Diocese and indicated that the Parish Profile for the Rector Search is completed after they added data on attendance. It's now up on the site and being pushed out. Fifteen people have expressed interest. A 30-day period will pass before they close the application process. Archdeacon Besson will pre-vet the applications and send the qualified candidates to the search committee. The search committee is putting the finishing touches on a questionnaire/interview template. Interviews should begin in late September with the goal of having a new Rector in place shortly after the New Year.
- Tommy shared we are heading into stewardship season. A theme needs to be established so messaging and programming can follow, including guest speakers. This is a good time to introduce the Vestry Minute. Steve Drukker will help coordinate the minute messages for each of the services.

Pam Boutte Update:

- She shared about a theft that is being investigated and two bank fraud cases.

- The theft is related to the school's new turf 50% down payment. The funds were returned but there is concern if it was directly from the business, which may be filing bankruptcy.
- The second is a mail theft/fraud case where a check was stolen and reproduced. The account had to be closed and a new account opened. The check was insured by the check company and will take 2- to 3-months to resolve.
- The last situation was fraudulent activity on one of the staff member's credit cards, which has been resolved with no loss of funds.
- Pam provided an overview of the financial packets including the income statement and balance sheets.

Subcommittee Reports:

Administration: Adam reviewed the financials ending June 30 and July 31. The financials were approved, motion by Adam, seconded by Cindy, all voted in favor. The June minutes were presented and approved with a motion by Adam, seconded by Steve, and all voted in favor. Adam shared that the committee would be reviewing the Church's vehicle driver policy. The Vestry will review and approve the amendments at a subsequent meeting.

Buildings and Grounds: Beth reminded the Vestry of Todd's email update on progress on the fellowship hall. Beth suggested we use historical artwork in the hall, perhaps some Wendler paintings. Bob walked through project costs to date summary, including the cost to date of \$310,141 of which \$103,341 was borrowed from reserves, which will be replaced through the capital campaign. Tommy suggested there be ribbon cuttings for the new hall with the Parish and possibly the Chamber of Commerce. Beth asked the Vestry to consider the purchase of a conventional oven replacement for the current fellowship kitchen oven that isn't functioning well for the church. A motion for approval was made by Tommy, seconded by Cindy, and all voted in favor. Beth shared that a request was made for building use for a nondenominational Bible study through NUYO before school. The Vestry suggested that provided that the group have two adults present, and all leaders/adults have background checks as well as a curriculum review that meets with approval, we will take a vote via email.

Mission: The committee is refining the sign-ups for dinners for eight and suggested it be announced on Rally Day. They are asking for all Vestry members to commit to participation. Creation Care as a focus area was shared. A motion to adopt Creation Care as a priority by Steve, seconded by Tommy, all voted in favor. A motion to provide \$1,000.00 to sponsor Fishin For Mission was made by Steve, seconded by Amy, all voted in favor.

St. Helena's School: Tommy shared that enrollment is up to 50 for the year, which is low but better than expected. The goal is an enrollment of 60 students. The budget will be reviewed and adopted at a future meeting. The school will be drawing on reserve funds to cover the deficit. A head of school search is underway. Tommy asked the Vestry to be prayerful about service on the School Board as there is additional need.

Around the Table: There were no further announcements or discussions.

Adjourn: 7:40 PM