

ST. ANDREW'S VESTRY MEETING, NOVEMBER 28, 2011

PRESENT: Carol Jablonski, Laurie Paulson, Mike Miller, Jeremy Bradford, David McCabe, Glenn Springstead, Ruth Utz, Bonnie Beck O'Brien, Jim Barnes, Charlie Jones

ABSENT: Ben Forjoe, Bob Bindschadler, Vicki Cheeseman

OTHER: Janet Carpenter (parishioner), Edna Paulson (parishioner), Paul Schwobel (Finance Commission), Carolyn Dunn and Cheryl Hoffman (Stewardship Commission)

The meeting began with prayer led by Paulson at 7:06pm.

Rev. Jablonski led a spiritual study with a focus on encountering the living word of God outside of Scripture. She had everyone listened to the Swedish folksong "Holy Night", first in English and then in Swedish. The song talks about the peacefulness of a church on a quiet winter night, and the feelings this sight evokes in a person.

Jones made a motion to approve the agenda. McCabe seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

Rector's Report

Rev. Jablonski distributed a printed report. She briefly mentioned that the Stewardship Commission, Finance Commission, and staff transition have been her major focus for the past few weeks. She also noted that pastoral care needs have increased. On the day before the consecration of Bishop Mariann Budde, the clergy met with the Presiding Bishop for a brief clergy day. Along with the Senior Warden, she met with the developer of the Maryland Book Exchange site and stressed St. Andrew's commitment to help foster a constructive dialogue. She has also been invited to give the invocation and benediction at the Inauguration of the College Park City Council in December. She also recently attended the Region V-VI Regional Assembly, and was elected to represent Region V on the Diocesan Council from 2012 to 2015. She also commented that she has asked the Diocesan Deployment Office for a list of names for an interim Children's and Youth Minister to work with St. Andrew's from mid-December to at least January. She has had informal conversations with some parents about the future of the spiritual care and formation of the children of St. Andrew's, and there will be a formal meeting with the parents of young children on December 10th.

There was also brief discussion by the Vestry about the possibility of Bishop Budde performing confirmation at different parishes instead of at the Cathedral.

Senior Warden's Report

Paulson talked about the meeting that he and Rev. Jablonski had had with the Book Exchange developer. He noted that the proposal has been put on the agenda for the December 8th meeting of the Prince George's County Planning Board. There has apparently been no change in the design, and Paulson noted that he expected that the Planning Board would reject the proposal. Several members of the Vestry stated their willingness to attend the meeting on the 8th, and St. Andrew's will also send a copy of the comments they had made at the City of College Park meeting along with a cover letter about the recent meeting with the developer. The Vestry also agreed to make parishioners aware of the December 8th Planning Board meeting, and invite them to attend as well.

Finance Commission

Schwobel passed around three handouts. The first was a draft budget for 2012 that also listed the figures for the 2011 budget. These were not final numbers, but were only suggestions. The most notable changes occurred in staff salaries and staff health insurance premiums.

Schwobel's second handout showed income and expenses for the January to October 2011 period and compared those figures with what had been budgeted for 2011. He noted how much each item was over or under budget, along with the percentage of the budget.

Schwobel's final handout showed actual and projected pledge giving for 2011.

There was extensive discussion about each of these handouts.

Stewardship Commission

Dunn passed out a series of handouts that broke down the number of 2012 pledges received so far and the amount pledged. At the present time, she noted that 96 pledges had been received, for an amount of \$288,000. There were more people making pledges for the first time this year. She noted that the next step for the Commission would be to send out thank-you notes for those who have already pledged and reach out to those who did pledge for 2011 but haven't yet for 2012.

Process Discussion – Restructuring Decision

Rev. Jablonski asked the Vestry for their opinion on the process of deciding to restructure the Director of Christian Formation from a full-time to a part-time position. There was extensive discussion about the need to speak more loudly to the parish about substantive changes in the parish, the need to get the story out better, and the need to communicate the implications of things. The Vestry members stressed the importance of involving parishioners in the future of Christian education at St. Andrew's. There was also the need to reassure parishioners that Adult Education *will* continue, but that it will be different. There was also the recognition that confidentiality rules about personnel may preclude talking about the whole story behind a decision.

Christian Formation Commission

Rev. Jablonski noted that these Commissions exist in many parishes and asked the Vestry to consider the formation of one at St. Andrew's. Springstead moved (and Jones seconded) that a Christian Formation Commission be established at St. Andrew's, and that this Commission report to both the Rector and the Vestry and guide the Christian education programs in the parish. This proposal was approved.

Buildings and Grounds Commission

Jones spoke briefly about the printed report that Bindschadler had previously circulated via email. Paulson also asked for the Vestry's assent to a request by the Thrift Store to place a small sign near the St. Andrew's sign on the front lawn on the days that the Thrift Store is open. This request was granted with no further discussion.

Request for Use of the Parish Hall by Brenda Jones

Information about this request will be circulated to the Vestry and discussed at a later meeting.

New Office Copier Contract

Schwobel and Rev. Jablonski noted that the contract for the current copier in the Office expires this week. Dave Carpenter had conducted extensive analysis on copiers and had found a high-volume copier that prints in color, is more environmentally-friendly, and costs less than the current copier. The new copier contract would be for five years. The first year (due to dealer incentives) would only cost \$4,000, but this price would increase to \$6,000 after 2012 once the incentives expire. The Finance Commission reviewed Carpenter's analysis and passed the request along to the Vestry. Barnes proposed, based on Carpenter's analysis and the review by the Finance Commission, that the Vestry authorize an expenditure of \$4,000 for one year and \$6,000 for subsequent years, for this copier. Jones seconded, and this proposal was approved.

Vestry Nominating Committee

This Committee will consist of Utz, Paulson, John Rigg, Sallie Holder, and Vicky Moore. Rev. Jablonski noted that she would have a meeting with the slate of candidates before the Annual Meeting to discuss what being on the Vestry means and also what it means to lose an election. There was brief discussion about whether the Committee could be asked to produce a slate of either one candidate per slot or a substantial overage of candidates.

Long-Range Planning Committee

Rev. Jablonski noted that this Committee has begun its work, and that she expected that there would be a Lenten program on long-range planning.

Jubilee Commission

Paulson presented a request from the Commission that the Christmas offering go to Community Crisis Services, Inc., which operates the Warm Nights shelter program in Prince George's County, operates suicide and youth crisis hotlines, and aids in the reporting of child abuse and neglect. Beck O'Brien seconded this proposal, and the motion was approved.

Other Business

Rev. Jablonski asked the Vestry for their opinion on approving the minutes of the Vestry meetings via email. There was minimal discussion on this issue, so the practice will continue.

There being no further business, Paulson moved to adjourn, Utz seconded, and the meeting concluded with Compline led by Paulson at 10:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Brethauer