

Vestry Minutes for The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist

October 16, 2019

Present: Sharon Lamando, Father Tom White, Clara Escobar, Jerry Hudson, Scott Kresge, Ed Stout, Tom Sombar and Jill Malloy.

Meeting was called to order by Senior Warden Sharon Lamando at 7:00 pm.

Opening Prayer was given by Father Tom.

Acceptance of September minutes: Motion was made by Jerry to accept September minutes and seconded by Scott. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Tom reported on the treasurer's report. (Copies attached for files). Motion was made by Jerry to accept treasurer's report and seconded by Clara. All were in favor.

Priest Comments: Father Tom reported on pastoral care. He and Deacon Paula continue to visit the homebound. He commented on two who were very ill and that he is always available to visit them. He reported on two members who had surgery and would be visiting them as well. He reported on preparing to teach inquiring class for those wishing to be confirmed on December 8th, October 30th, November 6th and November 13th and more if needed from 7-8 pm. Canon Martha Kirkpatrick will be visiting and will preach this Sunday. More details are coming in on that. Father Tom will be attending Bishop Brown's retired priest's luncheon on October 22nd at St. Andrews in Middletown. He mentioned last month the Invite, Welcome, Connect retreat at November 23rd at St. Anne's School in Middletown. The Bishop is hoping each parish will supply 4 members to attend from 9-3. He spoke of the choir having a party on Friday October 25th at Ned and Sandy's home. He spoke of how incredible Rebecca along with Scott are doing with the choir. Some concerns he had from things of past concerning the choir have proven he was wrong in those concerns and that the choir is responding. Sharon interjected that the congregation had reported to her how beautiful the choir sounds. Father Tom said Rebecca is demanding but she makes it fun, she is in charge every moment, never losing control yet she makes it enjoyable and fun. Finally the parish Thanksgiving dinner will be November 15th at Heritage Creek. Most of you might know that Eric Valentine is transferring from St. Paul's in Georgetown to our parish. He is moving towards seminary and is in the beginning of the process. Jerry asked if we would be having a luncheon for the Bishop. Father Tom said yes and that one member voiced her frustration that the ladies of the parish have to prepare and serve the food. She wishes everyone could just relax. Jerry mentioned that the kids served last year and

Scott said he didn't like the term "ladies" since there are as many men as ladies who help. Father Tom inquired about catering. Sharon said catering did not go over well the one time they catered it. Jill mentioned that it did come up last year and it was left that no one should feel obligated to do the luncheon. She said I think I announced it one Sunday which Father Tom said yes you did. Jill said if you just want to sit and enjoy lunch then they should. Father Tom said again I've only heard it from one person and it was probably the same person who brought it up last year. Jill said well I think the meal Sharon and I have talked about this year will be a lot different than last year. There will be little to no prep and crockpots will be used. The kids will once again serve the food. Father Tom said I mention it because if it comes up again I don't want you blindsided. Sharon said last year with everyone coming and preparing it was a great fellowship. Lots of people helping in different ways. The church was functioning so well in fellowship and friendship. Jerry said I think it shows a little more personal touch to the Bishop if we prepare the meal rather than having it catered. Sharon said that's what we anticipated again this year. Clara said there were so many people in the kitchen you could hardly move. Jill thanked Father Tom for the heads up.

Correspondence: Sharon read a thank you note from Mary and Doug Moubray in regards to the comfort/activity bags. Jean came up with the idea since sometimes casseroles are not needed.

Committee Reports

Property: Mike was not present. Sharon reported for him. The door handle at the rental is broken. Sharon believes it was replaced last spring. It is under warranty and should not cost us anything for it to be fixed. Should it be broken again the cost will be on the tenant.

Church Security and Safety: No report. Tom Sombar spoke up and said he got a call from a member of town council that we will be getting a letter to fix the small section of the brick sidewalk. Jerry asked if it was the tiles at the indent, Tom thought so but was not sure.

Parish Communications: Scott stated he was giving the report on behalf of Mark Owen. Shirts are in. He received 18 orders and would like to have 25 before placing the first order. He will be placing the first order the week of the 28th regardless of the number of shirts ordered but is hoping to get to 25 because we get a price break. Jill stated she thought it would be nice if the older kids wore those shirts if they were serving on the Bishop's luncheon day. Father Tom asked if she were suggesting the vestry purchase one for the 2 girls and Jill said no but perhaps Jerry would purchase one for Rebecca and Brenda could purchase one for Willow. Father Tom agreed that that was the whole purpose of the shirts. Clara asked the cost, which is \$20. Father Tom stated

the shirts should be worn on the day of the cookie walk. The entrance sign was submitted by Quillen, however, neither he nor Mark agreed with their design. They have submitted a design to vestry to decide which one should be used. Jerry commented perhaps they could check on the lighting of the sign. Scott will ask Mark to check with Mark Quillen about making sure the light is lit. The first newsletter has gone out. Email lists have been combined into one list. There are 158 people once the lists combined, we went down 4 but went up 6 so we are now at 160 people on the list. There will be a more formal newsletter going out in the future. It will mirror the tv. If anyone didn't notice, the tv has been installed. Scott has a demo to view and hopes to start it on Sunday. Mark thanked everyone who helped get it hung. Walking in Faith is to be filmed Friday. The topic survey that was put out has only yielded 4 total topics. Mark is upset with the response. Father Tom thinks it is good response. He feels it is a dud and is very upset. Mark said we may have to revisit the topic of the videos. Jerry said he thinks it should be expanded to keep it fresh. Father Tom asked about the parking lot signs. They are done and will be asking someone from the vestry to help.

Outreach Ministry: Clara reported they met today and discussed the cookie walk and the angel tree. It was a very good meeting and lots of good ideas were given. Have to get the church into the baking mode. She did bring up from the last meeting, Eric Valentine asked his water project be brought to the vestry. What Eric is suggesting is not in outreach so she turned it over to Father Tom. Father Tom said Eric would like to do a temple talk during mass. The vestry had a discussion several years ago and nothing against Eric but he is not sure worship is where this should be discussed. Everyone agreed.

In Reach Ministry: Father Tom said he had already given his report earlier in discussion.

Youth Ministry: Jill reported no report.

OLD BUSINESS

Cabinet for tv: Jerry said that is no longer an issue.

Meeting for church rental guidelines: Jill stated they did not meet. They are waiting for information from Tom Sombar. Mike, Sharon and Jill will be meeting once they get the needed information.

NEW BUSINESS

Candidates for vestry members: Scott and Jerry were the committee to replace the two people stepping down. Candidates submitted were Jean Skoypec and Mark Owen. Scott stated both possess leadership skills, organizational skills and both are motivated. Scott said neither one hesitated

when asked. Because Mark will not be an official member until the Bishop's Sunday for confirmation he will have met all obligation for membership. Sharon asked for a motion to accept the candidates. Clara made the motion to accept the two candidates for vestry and Jill seconded. All were in favor.

Dogfish Race: Jerry stated his opinion is the night before the race someone needs to block off the parking lots with barriers. If nothing else, ask the town if we could have some of their barriers and tape signs church parking only. Someone from the parish should remain in the parking lot to direct them in to park. Discussion followed that some people would not let our people come through to get to the church. Father Tom said we have record of Chief Longo saying in all the churches in Milton we are the one most effected. We have two problems and that is parking and getting them to the church. Jerry asked why they couldn't do it earlier and Scott said it has to do with liquor. Sharon asked why they couldn't reroute the race. Jerry suggested the church send a letter to the town stating how we have had great cooperation from the Chief of Police in the past but there were some incidents with the towns auxiliary police that were unpleasant and we would like the town to consider requiring a reroute of the race that leave at least one direct path to the church unencumbered. Father Tom asked Jerry to write the letter and have Sharon and Father Tom sign it to which he agreed.

Fire Company Donation: We received a request for a donation from the fire company. Father Tom said he came across the request and shared it with Sharon. He thought since they are expanding they may need donations. Tom said he does their audit and have money but will be spending a big portion of what they have. Father Tom said well do they need money or not? Tom said yes they need the money. Tom suggested \$100. Jill made a motion to donate \$100 to Milton Fire Dept. Scott seconded. All were in favor.

Feedback from Congregation: None

Annual Acceptance: Tom said we should make a decision on the annual acceptance. Because the convention is much earlier this year they need for us to respond (we're probably already late) getting a response. Father Tom asked Tom what was his question. Tom said we need to make a decision about the 2020 acceptance. Father Tom asked if he was prepared to make this year and he said yes he had paid half. Jerry asked if we should increase the acceptance up to \$8500 from \$8000. Tom said that was his thought as well. Jerry made a motion to increase the acceptance to \$8500 for 2020. Jill seconded. All were in favor.

Remarks from Father Tom: Father Tom spoke of how when he visited two other parishes this year they had a library table with a bowl filled with sand in the center with a candle burning. There were tapers there so if anyone wanted

to light a taper in remembrance of a loved one they could and place it in the bowl next to the big candle. It was just a suggestion he asked everyone to think about.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Jerry and seconded by Jill. All were in favor.

Next vestry meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Malloy, Clerk of the Vestry.