

## **Vestry Meeting – November 21, 2017**

The meeting was convened at 5:00 PM in Earle Conference Room, Parish House, Christ Church.

**Attending:** Harrison McLeod (Rector), Bern Mebane (Senior Warden), Dena Benedict (Junior Warden), Lauren Briles, Cotton Clarke, Rose Cuddy (Recorder), McNeil Epps, Bill Kehl (Chancellor), Chris Klasing (Asst. Treasurer) Kevin Mertens, Bryant Nixon, Ben Norwood, Louise Oxner, Chuck Reichert, Dan Seaman (Treasurer), Lizzy Sterling, Brent Williams.

**Guests:** Lei Offerle, Charleen Hakala, Joyce Thompson, Emily Davis, Jerry Cavan, Jane Courter, Hannah Flack.

**Absent:** Jim Baumgardner, Betty Teague

The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod opened the meeting with prayer.

### **Ministry Area Visit: Parish Life – Part Two**

Lei Offerle, Charleen Hakala, Karen Walker, Joyce Thompson, Emily Davis and Jerry Cavan of the Parish Life team attended tonight's meeting. Lei Offerle, Director of Parish Life, introduced the second part of her team to the Vestry (the first part visited the October Vestry meeting). She also thanked Vestry rep Louise Oxner for her dedication to the Parish Life Department. Lei expressed her thanks to Chuck Reichert and Lizzy Sterling for their work during the moves related to the Restoration.

Emily Davis, Director of Welcoming Ministries, said she grew up Presbyterian in Memphis, but attended an Episcopal school and learned to love the Episcopal Church. She and her husband, Frank, who is a cradle Episcopalian, were married in Atlanta and they moved to Greenville, where they raised their family. Emily began working at Christ Church with the Basketball Ministry and eagerly replaced Marie Taylor upon Marie's retirement from Welcoming Ministry. She finds very gratifying the chance to shepherd those who are interested in Christ Church through Discovery Weekend. It makes her so happy to see her Discovery Weekend graduates get plugged in at Christ Church.

Jerry Cavan, Parish Registrar, said he and his family have been members at Christ Church for about 44 years. Five of their grandchildren were baptized here, and eleven of their family confirmed here so far, and their two daughters were married here (in the same year!). He and his wife, Betty, also have a strong relationship with the school. Betty taught there, their daughter Ashley is on staff and their children and grandchildren have gone to CCES. Jerry's career was in commercial equipment leasing and he also worked with Dena Benedict in his previous position. After retirement, he volunteered in the Business Office for three years and then moved to the registrar staff position, where he has been for eight years. He has cut back to a couple of mornings a weeks with changes in the Business Office. He discussed the records and requirements of record keeping with the Episcopal Church. He called the Vestry's attention to the records and archives going back to 1826 and reviewed the numbers from the last couple of years. He said that most transfers in were those who had moved from another location to Greenville. He thanked the Vestry for all they do for the staff and the church.

Charleen Hakala said that she was born in Ottawa, Canada, but grew up in Ohio on the Great Lakes. Her dad was Catholic and her mother Church of England, so she naturally became an

Episcopalian. She and her mother took care of their large family after her father died. She has four children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. While living in Florida, she began working for a church. When she moved to live near her son in Greenville, she began working in accounting at Christ Church. After a brief hiatus to care for a grandson, she returned to Christ Church as a receptionist. She really enjoys seeing everyone who comes into the Church. She has also found it very rewarding to serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and to get acquainted with those who were homebound. She said that young singles and seniors who are homebound always need more ministry.

Jane Courter said she and her husband, an emergency room physician with GHS, have lived in South Carolina for 29 years. She began work with the preschool and then was hired as a receptionist. Jane has two sons, who are young adults and she is getting ready for grandmother mode. She really enjoys greeting those who call or come into the church.

Joyce Thompson said that you've probably had some of her food since she works in the kitchen. Joyce is one of seven children, and has a daughter who lives in Georgia. Joyce retired from 3M after working there 32 years to care for her mother. After her mother's death, she took a cutlery class at Project Host and wound up here! She said that she loves to meet people. She enjoys working in the kitchen and said that Karen and the kitchen volunteers are wonderful to work with. Bryant asked what her favorite thing that Karen cooks. Joyce's answer is corn pudding. Rose asked what her favorite thing is to cook, and that is macaroni & cheese.

Karen Walker was unable to attend since she and her son were taking her elderly dog to the vet after Blossom suddenly fell ill.

Harrison thanked the Parish Life department, who is front line for welcoming people to our parish.

## **New Business**

### Vestry Election Results

Results from the 2017 Vestry Elections are Anne Arrington, Helen Wynkoop, George E. McCall and Mac Gentile. Milton Bates and Susie White were elected as Delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

### Youth Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Hannah Flack, Director of Youth Ministry, brought the Vestry's attention to the resolution passed at last year's Diocesan Convention to increase youth involvement. She asked the Vestry to consider appointing a youth delegate to the annual diocesan convention going forward. They would need to be confirmed and not on the diocesan youth leadership council. One of the goals for the Christ Church youth program is to include a youth as one of our eight voting delegates. Hannah has recently been appointed as an Adult Chaperon for the DYLC.

Formally, the youth delegate would be appointed by Harrison, but he would accept the advice from Kellie and Hannah. Within the constraints of the by-laws, we would work with this decision. Next year, for the 2019 convention, we will elect one delegate and then appoint one youth. Bill Kehl will help us with the math and logistics. Most other churches (except Trinity and Christ Church, who have eight and Advent, who has six) have four delegates. Closer to the time of the nominations, we will need to pass a standing resolution to provide the mechanism for this.

## **October Minutes**

The October 17, 2017, Vestry Meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting by email. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Brent and seconded by Chuck. All Vestry members voted in favor, none were opposed. The motion carried.

## **Rector's Report**

Harrison said that the Staff visits to the Vestry meeting and the Vestry visits to Staff meeting have been instrumental in building relationships.

Harrison remarked on today's personnel announcement that the Rev. Jay Biedenharn will be taking over the Pastoral Care department as the Rev. Bob Chiles moves toward retirement in the spring. Jay begins with the administrative direction of the department and Bob continues in the pastoral care ministry that he has done so well for us over the last six years. Kellie Wilson will, as of December 1, be the sole Faith Development director. In the interim, she will also be the administrative oversight for the Faith in Action department. We continue to search for a Business Administrator and a Faith in Action Priest.

The Third Century Commission, headed by Harrison, Bern and Dena, will take a critical look at the life of the Church as we approach the 2020 celebration. Between January and June 1, the group will come back to us with recommendations to strengthen the life of the Church. If the group can conclude their work by June 1, this will provide enough information and recommendation to incorporate their recommendations and the priorities they discover in the 2019 budget process. This group is charged with creating structures for ministry. This group is also composed of three staff members and four parishioners.

The Bicentennial Committee will be headed by Spence and Marie Taylor. They are excited about this opportunity to make Christ Church an agent for transformational change in our community and diocese. These two groups will work in conjunction with each other. Harrison will look to the Taylors and the Wardens to help populate a balanced committee.

Bern added that this is an opportunity to build in a process to continue to question what we do and why we do it, which allows the budget to be the translation of the overarching plan.

On December 3, we will move back to the Church. Pews will be coming in next week. Stained glass windows will come in through the spring and we will be ready to celebrate the completion in April. The new worship schedule, with the addition of the 10:30 AM Markley Chapel service, will begin December 3 as well. We have a donor for the St. Luke's Chapel organ and a potential donor for the courtyard to be built in front of the church.

Bryant Nixon has asked for final documents from the contractor as we near the finish line. We are still on track with at least \$500,000 for debt repayment.

## **Senior Warden's Report**

Bern Mebane reported that he thought the annual meeting was well orchestrated, but he missed the bacon! Bern expressed his thanks to McNeil for stepping in to fill the open Vestry term through 2017. He and McNeill have been working on renewing the lease with Independence Bank, which is being acquired by another entity. McNeil said they are requesting the change in the lighting and

they are in negotiations for them to select their own contractor. We are hoping to write the new lease in more favorable terms for the Church.

### **Junior Warden's Report**

Dena Benedict said her report included a lot of thanks. She thanked everyone who helped with the Staff Appreciation Lunch. She called the group's attention to the recent email from Kyley assigning staff members to whom to write thank you notes for this year's Thanksgiving emphasis. Dena also thanked those who served with Annual Giving, Vestry and Resource Development Committee on the Annual Giving Call-A-Thon. She and Cotton Clark will distribute packets tonight with everything needed to write thank you notes to those who pledged. If you are extra energetic, she has a few other unassigned parishioner lists!

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dan reported that the October pledge revenue dropped us below budget this year and unpledged giving remains \$60,000 behind. We are underspent pretty dramatically in programming expenditures – around \$104,000. He projects that we will be in a deficit from \$40,000-70,000 until we pull from the deficit reserve.

In HIStory Lives, we received the \$400,000 from the Endowment, which has been turned over to the bank and draws down the amount we owe on the project. There are additional complicating factors, but by the end of November, he hopes to have a purer accounting as the project draws to a close.

Bern asked if we had a procedure in place for "pull-forward" spending. Dan said that we did not. He knows that Faith Development has something in the works, which falls well within their budget, but would hurt us overall.

Chris thanked the Budget Committee for their work on the 2018 budget, which was presented to the Finance Committee yesterday. We are almost at a balanced budget. At the December meeting, the budget will be presented to the Vestry.

Dan spoke to the decision to proceed with consolidation of reporting for the Church, CCEP and Endowment for audit reporting only rather than an operational consolidation. It will not affect anything we will see. The auditors will consolidate the reports once a year for the annual audit.

### **Departmental Reports**

Pre-submitted Ministry Area reports were sent via email to the Vestry in advance and are attached to these minutes.

Cotton reported Annual Giving numbers. Toward our goals, we have 700 pledges (84%), 2.323 Mil (89%) 363 increased (91%), 58 new pledges (77%), with \$412,000 – 169 giving units – still remaining who pledged last year but not yet this year.

Chuck reported that deconstruction of the ASC Worship Space begins next week. Wednesday, November 29, from 1:00 to 7:00 PM, volunteers are needed to help take up carpet.

Rose reported on the Nominations & Elections Committee's excellent job this year in increased participation in the elections and their engagement in this job.

Reminder: the next Vestry meeting is at the home of Jennifer & Harrison McLeods' home and is followed by a Christmas social.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.  
Rose Cuddy, Recorder