

Vestry Meeting Minutes  
October 21, 2014  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
Crook Auditorium

**Vestry Present:** Bob O'Connor, Allison Parker, Charles Shipp, Raymond Spence, Nicky Hitching, Alison Boeving, Celeste Herburger, Leslie Atwood Smith, Hall Gardner, Clay Woemmel, David Leigh, Rose Johnston, Terre Sullivant, James Dowd

**Others Present:** Katie Owen, Eyleen Farmer, Chris Girata, Kathryn Jasper, Kristin Lensch

**Call to Order:** Rev Chris Girata called the meeting to order at 6:01pm

**Opening Prayer:** Rev Chris Girata

**Approval of Minutes:** Hall Gardner made a motion to approve September minutes, Leslie Atwood Smith seconded

**Music Report:** Kristin Lensch highlighted several upcoming music events, including the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Choral Evensong in collaboration with the choir of St. Mary's Cathedral, featuring a reception prepared by Mary O'Brien. Other events mentioned include the Children's Choir being invited to sing at the opening of a new St. Jude building on Friday, November 21. Kristin also announced that she has been asked to serve as the musical director for a Diocesan conference in Houston, TX and that our children have been invited – potential field trip coming! Lastly, the organ is celebrating its anniversary, so Kristin will play a recital in January and then we will have brief organ recitals before the spring Evensongs, as well as play some more lengthy preludes to honor the organ.

The organ still has outstanding restoration work, with the chambers on the pulpit side already redone, and the two divisions that remain on the lectern side, behind the organ console. There are pieces of the organ that wear out (leather, etc). In addition, there were modifications made in the 1980s that could be restored to original state.

Hall Gardner remarked that it was great to have John Palmer back at Calvary.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katie Owen distributed the income statement and balance sheet to the room. Total expenses are in line with what we budgeted for the year. Katie noted a few standouts on expenses – office administrative expenses are higher than projected for September due to a later audit, so the timing caused us to be off but we are in line for the year. Bee removal caused building/grounds to be off this month. Community service is ahead of budget. Lenten Preaching Series was over budget but the additional income this year offset the additional expense. The HUB asked for their fourth quarter grant early. While Community Breakfast spending is ahead of schedule, it has generated \$15,000 in income from sponsorships and soup sales and is almost breaking even to date. On the revenue ledger, year to date is about \$1.65 million, well ahead of our budget YTD. We have had some excess income related to non-pledge gifts, as well as having done a better job of when we have outside events (weddings, dinners) - we're actually covering our expenses instead of taking losses. \$35,000 in post-date pledges this year, which was helpful. Net surplus will go towards paying down loan from Endowment.

Balance sheet includes assets (bank, petty cash, etc) and the liabilities (building and grounds loan, bell tower loan). \$12,000 payment in October for bell tower loan, 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter statements for bell tower pledges will be mailed soon and will get remaining payments on bell tower loan.

When asked about financial challenges of the church, Katie mentioned that based on pledging trends, we need to engage our younger generation in pledging. Hall reported on an update on the pledging campaign:

160/(330) pledges, 8 are new pledges, on average there has been a 9% increase. Chris encouraged Vestry to consider reallocating our budget again this year, a goal of another 5% to get Calvary into a stable debt-free reality faster. The debt repayment would not have an early repayment penalty. Hall Gardner made a motion to accept Treasurer's Report, Terre Sullivant seconded.

### **Work Committees Report:**

#### Senior Warden/Administration Report: Hall Gardner

At our next vestry meeting (November), the newly elected vestry members will join, Hall recommended we should review our goals and reprioritize our goals that we haven't accomplished, have a report from the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and then at the December meeting focus on the reallocation of the funds.

The Hospitality HUB has hired an Executive Director, Kim Moss, with a three-year funded position based on grants and other commitments. Our financial support to organization and the building is still important to the HUB.

Buildings and Grounds: With the \$80,000 remaining balance, the priority needs to be the courtyard because of water coming to the Gospel Rooms, as well as addressing water issues in the South wall on the nursery side.

Formation Group: Allison Parker – Formation has met all the year goals. Attendance is increasing, small groups are thriving, Bible 365 has gone very well, people are engaged/re-engaged in formation. Kayla and Hilary have monthly benchmarks and outings for the children and youth. Katie Owen added that we have gotten 29 pledges from children, \$1200 in money but a lot of pledges for what they will do in acts for the church. Chris added a note about our formation numbers - that in looking at last school year, the best Sunday we had in adult attendance, we have been at or above that number for every Sunday for this school year for Formation. Over 200 adults are in various Bible 365 small groups. Our video series about The Story has been discovered on Facebook and have been shared by people all over the country, with Calvary as a resource for these Episcopalians all over the country.

Ministry: Leslie Atwood Smith – Goals 2 and 3 will be clarified and reassessed at the November meeting. Eyleen reported on the remaining business of ministry (below).

### **Clergy Reports:**

Eyleen Farmer – Ministry has been in transition with more involvement from Eyleen in the Outreach committee and the year-long focus of the herb and honey garden. The Scarborough Fair had about 25 entries for the tea brew-off. The group has not debriefed yet but when they do, they will identify products that they could focus on as they transition to a viable ministry, moving out of pilot phase. Currently the project has 3 beehives but has commitments for 4 more hives, as well as raised beds. John Burruss has helped Eyleen identify talent for the needs moving forward such as herb garden design, care of the three acres, etc. Second graders at St. George's Independent School created a design learning project (focusing on a question of how will they create products from honey that kids will like?), each class created a different product to sell at the Scarborough Fair and many from St. George's attended the Fair, as well as others outside the Calvary/Annunciation community, which was very encouraging.

### **Rector's Report – Chris Girata:**

Personnel: Since our last meeting, Ben Robertson has taken a Rector position at Chapel of the Cross and was celebrated Sunday, October 12. Ben starts on November 1<sup>st</sup> in Madison, MS. Chris remarked that the support of Ben was a wonderful sign of Calvary's health as a parish.

Bill Webster is no longer our Facilities Director. Harry Reyna has been hired as our new Facilities Director. Harry has restaurant and electrical background and started today (October 21). Harry will work Tuesday-

Friday and Sunday (5 days total). One of Harry's roles will be to do a walk-through on Sunday mornings before the 8AM service to address any potential issues before the services. In addition, we have gotten a number of quotes for landscaping on the whole property, the idea would be that they would come twice a month and clean beds, ridding parking lot and alley of trash, and weed the beds, in addition they could as requested plant color in front beds. Calvin Turley and Julie Smith have spearheaded a landscaping plan to keep the grounds looking intentional and clean and this is a part of a strategic shift in that direction. Andy Hays has designed and proposed signage for our parking lot to indicate that the lot belongs to Calvary, which we hope to utilize in the future.

Chris clarified the meaning of the word "curate" for the vestry, as a part of the earlier conversation on personnel. The diocese commits to employ the new priests of the diocese for two years after seminary. The diocese typically pays half of the cost of employing the curate for that time if the church cannot support the priest, with intention that the curate will grow that parish.

Chris has been looking into whether it would be feasible to invest in a non-ordained person professional for the open position but has not made any particular decision. Regardless, the position would not be filled until late-spring, early summer.

Columbus Park: A commercial real estate agent is working to identify history of selling Downtown land to a non-profit to determine the correct price point for our offer. The city and county jointly own the property.

Annual Parish Meeting & Elections: This Sunday is the annual meeting - you must be present to vote, no absentee ballots. This coming Sunday, the meeting will open following the 8AM service to allow voting for the 8AM service, and the meeting will remain open until after the 10AM service for the formal meeting itself. This year, we will pass out ballots to everyone as usual. The hope is that potentially in a year's time, we will have ballots at tables for people to pick up to fill the "communicant in good standing" requirement of the voting in the diocese. Vestry will be announced Sunday night and will be invited to the November Vestry meeting. They will have a Vestry orientation dinner in November with Hall, Leslie, and Chris. By January's Vestry Retreat, the Vestry will be trained, have goals identified, have a working budget, and be ready to take off into their work.

Diocesan Convention: Chris asked to make sure calendars are marked for the convention, Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Eucharist on Friday at 5pm is highly recommended. There also is a Convention party at 6:30pm on Friday at the Rendezvous.

**Adjournment:** Charles Shipp made a motion to adjourn, Nicky seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm

Warden's Committee Meeting Sign-up:

Sept 9: Raymond Spence & Mike Nelson

October 14: David Leigh

Nov 4: James Dowd, Nicky Hitching

Dec 9: Alison Boeving & Clay Woemmel