

Vestry Minutes
Tuesday December 19, 2017
Calvary Episcopal Church
Crook Auditorium

Present: Current Vestry - Fred Piper, Palmer Jones, Gail Harrell, Les Smith, Claudia Haltom, Jan Gwin, Donovan Smith, Peg Wahl, Sarah Squire, Margaret Craddock; Incoming Vestry – Kim Kitterman, Heidi Rupke; Treasurer – Hall Gardner; Staff – Katie Owen and Revs. Scott Walters, Neil Ramen and Paul McLain; Guest – Tim Huebner
Absent: Current Vestry – Sarah Ball, Chris Bird, Tony Graves, Hank Word

Rev. Scott Walters opened the meeting with a prayer

New Business: Tim Huebner presented the work he and his Rhodes students did on the history of the Calvary parking lot. The work developed from Tim's research on the overall history of the Calvary neighborhood and will result in a new historical marker that will give a more complete history of the Calvary block. The two parcels comprising Columbus Park on the SW corner of Adams and Third have long been identified as the former home of Nathan Bedford Forrest. The history scholars' research has shown that the area encompassing most of Calvary's parking lot that is adjacent to Columbus Park was actually the location of Forrest's business – a slave market where human beings were bought and sold. This history will be updated on an additional marker, funded by a grant from the National Park Service. The marker's language has been vetted and approved by a panel of history scholars whose members are diverse. A discussion of whether the symbol at the top of the marker should be Calvary's or that of the National Park Service followed with the decision to consider that further and poll the Vestry by email later. The Vestry approved a motion to support this additional sign and to work with the Building & Grounds Committee on the best placement. Tim would like to have the new sign installed by April 4, 2018, which marks the 50th Anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King. This sign may need to be temporary due to the timing of the closing of Calvary's purchase of Columbus Park from the City. The City has accepted Calvary's payment of 10% of the \$65,000 purchase price with closing to be at a later date.

Approval of November Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the 11-21-17 meeting was approved with one correction. The forecasted surplus at year end is \$100,000 not \$100,00. Sarah Squire noted the proper spelling of her name in the October minutes should be "Squire" not Squires.

Treasurer's Report:

Financials: At this time, revenues for are about \$50,000 below expectation; a 2017 surplus of \$100,000 is still the projection. This will be used to pay for Columbus Park, website improvements and any unexpected repairs. The 11-30 operating cash balance is good at \$329,000; Grizzlies Prep improvements have been moved from the Line of Credit to a mortgage. Stewardship results at this time are 225 pledges for \$1.3 m of the \$1.39m goal, which is 3% higher than the draft 2018 budget to account for deaths, people who move, etc. Of the total pledges to date 14 are new, 76 increased, 29 decreased and the remainder are the same.

Budget: The 2018 Budget is still a work in progress. Payroll is in flux because Calvary hopes to staff up to full capacity; there may be a deficit of about \$50,000. It was noted that staff raises were given last year. The Vestry will approve the final budget at the January retreat.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was approved.

The group thanked outgoing Senior Warden Fred Piper and Vestry members Julie Bethel, Jan Gwin, Claudia Haltom and Donovan Smith for their faithful service.

Wardens Reports:

Church Safety Research: Margaret Craddock spoke with 9 local churches to learn how they handle security. Most do not have a real security plan and they use unarmed security service guards for services and some special events. The exception to this is the extremely advanced program at Temple Israel because of its unique concerns about anti-Semitic activity and political threats. Some of the suggestions made were:

- Contact FBI agent Kenneth Cardelli to arrange a visit for him to survey and make recommendations
- Make friends with our local N Main Precinct; invite them over and make gifts of food from time to time
- Investigate purchasing and donating a Blue Crush security light to MPD. This is expensive and involves many steps and approvals; it records 24-7 but is not actively monitored.

It was noted that as of 1-1-2018 “no guns’ signs on doors of any property must be a regulation size and contain wording required by state law to be legally effective; also noted that Calvary has a new 2d St guard on duty. The recommendation was made to form a Security Committee as a subset of the Vestry to develop a broad plan and make recommendations.

Rector’s Report:

- A large group will be confirmed 1/7/18
- Amber Carswell’s appointment to be a Calvary Associate Rector will be made simultaneously tomorrow at Calvary and in Little Rock 12-20-17; her first service will be 1/28/18
- The Calvary Annual Meeting is 1-21-18; people Cap will facilitate the meeting; Values will be clarified so that the structure of Calvary’s work will follow the values
- The Vestry Retreat is Friday – Saturday 1/26 and 27/18

New Business:

Marketing – a marketing committee composed of 9 people (Donovan Smith, Gail Harrell, Claudia Haltom, Palmer Jones, Sarah Jones, Kim Kitterman, Garrett McClintock, Margaret McClintock, Peg Wahl) presented its work. The group presented excellent suggestions for increased visibility that will enhance Calvary’s witness in the city. Gail Harrell will convert the presentation into an appropriate format that can be posted on Basecamp for further consideration.

The Regular Vestry meeting 1/16/18 will not be held.

Margaret Craddock for Clerk Hank Word