

Vestry Retreat - - - Via ZOOM

January 20, 2024 - -9:30am - noon

Attendees: Ben Boeving, Jessica Flynn, Erik Ball, Clay Woemmel, Cathy Awsumb, Bill Bangham, Franklin Barton, Kate Connell, Terri Dulaney, Bill Etnyre, Allison Parker, Christina Ross, Shannon Tucker, Mary Jane Viar, Sott Walters, Katherine Bush, Steve Smith, Madge Deacon

Absent: Len Grice, Brie Wallace, Paul McLain

Opening Exercise

Katherine Bush

- Centering Exercise
- What can you see from where you are sitting?
- Consider things, colors, inside and outside
- What can you hear, smell, taste, touch?
 - Various members shared responses

Financials

Erik Ball

- Good end to the year
- Closed pretty close to desired pledges
 - Ended year \$19k short in pledges, then received an additional \$13k in pledges
- Parking lot rent
 - Budgeted \$100k in income
 - Got full year of rent - - - not interrupted by construction
 - Actual rent funds received \$158k
 - Parking lot is owned by Calvary; rented by Best Park
 - Monthly rent rate raised to \$16k from \$12k
 - Steve Strickland – Parking Lot Attendant – is now part of Calvary’s Sunday AM Security Team
- Christmas bonuses paid to staff – all very appreciative!
- Tighter than usual '23 budget . . . Slight surplus of \$47k for the year
- Anticipating a more comfortable '24 budget
- Discussion of offering plate funds and the use of QR codes in the service bulletins
- Capital Campaign
 - Total Pledged \$6,911,171
 - Collected \$3,039,096
 - \$2,421,114 collected since campaign launch
 - \$ 617,982 collected prior to campaign launch
 - Expenses to date \$1,727,684
- Unanimous approval of Financial Report

Approval of December Meeting Minutes

Scott Walters

- Cathy and Jessica moved approval
- Unanimous

Meeting Schedule

Scott Walters

- Third Tuesday of each month
- Members asked to volunteer to offer opening prayer at each meeting

Vestry Introductions: Name and something at Calvary that makes you happy

- **Clay** – restoration and small group gatherings
- **Christina** – Emergency use of Room in the Inn & all sign-up slots filled! Calvary's congregation cares for one another
- **Erik** – warm, welcoming, sense of joy
- **Steve** – Wednesday noon service
- **Franklin** – AIDS Banner
- **Madge** – Lenten LPS / Waffle Shop and the annual reunions these bring, and the bringing together of the community
- **Mary Jane** – AIDS Banner Team; my mother has been in the hospital for a week – grateful for all the calls and support from Calvary; love working with the acolytes and watching the youth as they grow up
- **Terri** – So proud of Welcome Inn . . . So grateful son Will was included in all graduating senior recognition and gifts even though he had been away at boarding school for four years; Calvary is a terrific place!
- **Ben** – Calvary's always-positive energy and positive resilience (i.e., COVID, Great Hall Worship space)
- **Bill E.** – Acolyte leaders; Basement church – regardless of weather! Teamwork!
- **Jessica** – did not – at first – love the transition to the Great Hall. . . LOVE the transition back to the Nave - - - We are seeing our full potential!
- **Allison** – relationships . . . Favorite memory: being in Arkansas as part of the Search Committee that brought Scott and Ardelle to Calvary (“We hit it out of the ballpark!”)
- **Kate** – people; fellowship; Book Club; being the Mother Church that is still evolving (i.e., 5pm Sunday service)
- **Cathy** – long history with Calvary and Calvary community; EYC as a teen; rarely miss a Sunday
- **Shannon** – recessing singing a good hymn makes me happy!
- **Katherine** – whole conversation makes me happy! 5pm Sunday service makes me happy!
- **Bill B.** – grateful to / for people looking out for Diane and me as I'm rehabbing from hip replacement surgery; interpersonal relationships; diversity of those who are very well off financially working and worshipping with those who have virtually nothing; Sacred Ground; working with the youth
- **Scott** – the December Confirmation Class . . . loved that one of the youth being confirmed had Bill B. as his sponsor

Vestry Responsibilities

Scott Walters

- Very few canonical rules
- Like being on a non-profit Board
- Confidentiality is key
- Communication with congregation is key

- THIS Vestry has never existed before! THIS group is unique! We are all coming together as a team!
- In Corinthians, Paul tells all - - - You have the gifts you need, and will come together as a team
- Know that we are all learning together!
- We will – at earliest possible date – come together to share a meal and an in-person gathering!

BREAK - - - 10:34 – 10:43

Introduction of Ardelle Walters to lead Team Exercise

Ardelle is a Licensed Professional Counselor; Has done work with Credo (Clergy Support); founded Partners Path – a support organization for spouses of Episcopal Clergy

Storytelling Through Timelines (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

- First used this process in Individual Therapy sessions
- We start with the past to ground the present and move to the future
- Each of us in this group is bringing our own stories to a larger group story
- Take 3 – 4 minutes to jot down thoughts from your life in each of the years of 2020, '21, '22, '23
- All individual stories are part of the Greater Calvary Story
- Consider the consistencies throughout the four-year span
- All Vestry members shared various experiences from each year . . . All responses captured and will be transcribed and shared with the entire group . . . This is a sample of responses:
 - 2020 & 2021 – COVID; isolation from family & Calvary; much live-streaming and ZOOM brought us / kept us together; much texting and many phone calls; navigating grocery shopping, and other essentials; being aware of precautions; the strangeness of politicizing COVID and related situations
 - 2022 – coming out of isolation; excitement of being back together as a family and as a congregation; Vestry retreat at Barth House - - - saying the Lord's Prayer together, in person, and not via live-streaming
 - 2023 – a year of rebuilding . . . Calvary was / is “the house that was not destroyed” . . . old and new together in one new house
- Consistencies:
 - Caring for one another – “no man is an island”
 - Listening
 - Can't “do life” alone – even / especially when at your lowest points
 - Consistencies in the midst of inconsistencies
- Common Themes:
 - Community
 - Creativity
 - Service over self
 - Resilience
 - Adaptability
 - Closeness
 - Commitment
 - Determination

- Ongoing welcome
- Consistency of “It takes a village!”
- Worship – Daily worship services (online) begun during COVID continue to this day
- Everything remains consistent with Mission Statement of “Making God’s Love Visible in Downtown Memphis”
- Courses like “Sacred Ground” help us listen to ourselves and to one another
- Stop and Listen
- Room to Grow and Question = = = those qualities are a throughline that have helped Calvary survive generation after generation
- How we responded during COVID will help us in 10 weeks / 2 days when we no longer have the “church building” for all functions other than church services!
- CALVARY >>> DOERS >>> need to continue to pause, think, listen, and discern
- DISCERNMENT –
 - are there two or three things we need to do in the year ahead?
 - What keeps us grounded as individuals so we can be present for others?
 - What did we do well and what could we have done better during first phase of renovations?
 - What do people need / want to know? What does it look like for the Vestry and Congregation to communicate with one another?
 - How do we communicate better?
 - Remember to wear Vestry name badges!
 - Vestry needs to have somewhat of a thorough understanding of what will be happening during construction and be able to answer questions such as,
 - Where do various activities happen while construction is in process?
 - How can the congregation help with specific tasks?
 - Note: Construction ends one month prior to Lent 2025!

12:13pm - - - Final meeting items

- Brief discussions about how to use REALM for Vestry communications
- We will continue today’s conversations as we move throughout the year!

Closing

Katherine Bush

Rummaging for God

Fr. Dennis Hamm calls the Daily Examen “rummaging for God.” He likens it to “going through a drawer full of stuff, feeling around, looking for something that you are sure must be there.” That’s an accurate description of what it’s like to pray the Daily Examen. We look back on the previous day, rummaging through the “stuff”, and finding God in it. We know God is there.

From St. Augustine’s Prayer Book:

With trust in God’s mercy, let us review our actions and words in the day that is ending and remember the encounters with had with other people:

- ~ Did I use my time wisely, working diligently and honestly?
- ~ Have I maintained healthy habits and received God's gifts with gratitude?
- ~ In my dealings with others, was I honest and kind?
- ~ Where was I most aware of God's presence and what particular blessings did I receive?
- ~ What actions and failures to act need forgiveness?
- ~ Are there things I need to do differently tomorrow?

In humble honesty, let us name before God our sins in thought, in word, in deed, and in things left undone.

We ask for forgiveness and amendment of life.

We give thanks for all the ways in which we found ourselves towards God and for every good thing we received.

Gather up these thoughts and reflections with the words Our Saviour taught us to say:

Our Father . . .

Meeting Adjourned . . . ZOOM Call Ended

Respectfully Submitted,

Madge Logan Deacon
Vestry Clerk
Calvary Episcopal Church
Memphis, TN
madge6993@yahoo.com
901-871-7380