

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**

**Vestry Meeting**

Feb. 20, 2018, 7:00p.m.

Farmer Hall

**Vestry Members in Attendance:** Senior Warden Gary Naegel, Junior Warden Gary Cimmino, the Rev. Shariya Molegoda, Anastasia King, Ray Hencir, Nancy Karas, John Armstrong, Mark Auletta, Colleen McHugh, Laura Downes, Jane Krauss, Maeve Merkle-Scotland, Louise Beecher

**Absent:** Matt Valentine, Mark Tardie

**Opening Prayer:** Prayer commemorating Frederick Douglass

**Dwelling in the Word:** Luke 5:1-11

**Minutes**

Ray Hencir moved to accept the minutes of the December 19, 2017, meeting. The motion was seconded by Gary Naegle and approved unanimously.

Nancy Karas moved to accept the minutes of the Jan. 25 vestry meeting. The motion was seconded by Colleen McHugh and passed unanimously.

**Rector's Report**

Positive comments were made about introduction the Ash Wednesday "Ashes to Go" project at the Madison train station.

The Rev. Shariya Molegoda reported that the funeral for long-time congregant and choir member Jan Anderson had been well attended.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Colleen McHugh reported that the church's signature cards had been changed to reflect new signers.

McHugh also reported that the church's bookkeeping system was being moved from QuickBooks to Power Church which will allow much better and more efficient record-keeping. She said the next project will be to meet with the volunteer counters who keep track of Sunday collections.

## **Old Business**

### **Annual Meeting Debriefing**

Vestry Warden Gary Naegel reported that a number of people had volunteered to help with fund-raising after the presentation by out-going Treasurer Cathy Golden at the annual meeting. Naegel also reported that Big Y supermarkets also offer the same type of donation card offered by Stop & Shop supermarkets and that the church would start offering those for sale, too. Mark Auletta said that congregation had to try to increase its membership. The Rev. Shariya Molegoda said the church had to do better to involve its members in stewardship.

### **Spaghetti Dinner**

Vestry Warden Gary Naegel said that a sponsorship system had been set up for this year's spaghetti dinner and auction so that people who were unable to attend could still contribute. The church is hoping to raise \$15,000 at the event. It raised \$15,900 last year. Naegel reminded those present that the vestry contributes a wine basket to the auction every year.

## **New Business**

### **Calendar**

It was agreed that there would be three services on Easter morning – a 6 a.m. sunrise service at the town beach, an 8 a.m. service with hymns, and a 10 a.m. service with the choir – both at the church. It was agreed that the church should display banners listing the services. The Rev. Shariya Molegoda said that during Holy Week there would be a Tenebrae service on Wednesday, a Maundy Thursday service, and Good Friday services at noon and 7 p.m. The Saturday Easter Vigil will be held at 7 p.m. and will feature the lighting of the new fire.

The vestry decided to keep three services during the three Sundays in June and July when the Rev. Molegoda is away. Supply clergy will lead two of the services, while John Armstrong will lead a prayer service for the third.

### **Parochial Report**

The parochial report was approved on a motion by Anastasia King that was seconded by Gary Cimmino.

## **Vestry Retreat**

April 28 was set as the date of the vestry retreat at a yet-to-be decided location. Vestry members also were invited to attend diocesan Spring Training April 7 in Meriden.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Communications**

John Armstrong emphasized the need for outreach, noting that Bishop Ian Douglas has long encouraged congregants to get out of their four walls and be apostles. The possibility of sponsoring an informed speaker series was raised.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

Building and Grounds Committee Chairman Gary Cimmino reported that someone needs to take charge of keeping the flag that is displayed at the front of church raised appropriately. He said he had noticed that it had not been lowered to half-mast Feb. 19 despite an announcement from Gov. Dannel Malloy that flags should be lowered to honor the victims of the Florida school shooting. Mark Auletta said he would write an item for the church bulletin asking for a volunteer to take over this responsibility.

In other business Cimmino reported:

- that the company that cares for the church's septic system advised pumping the church's septic tank annually;
- that sufficient keys had been made for all church staff and vestry members who needed them;
- that the church was going to take advantage of the offer by Ring's End Hardware to take up to 5 gallons of old paint a day to clear out the numerous disused cans currently stored in the garage
- that the Memorial Garden needed another stone to hold a plaque with the names of those interred there.

That last point prompted a discussion about what was being done to keep track of location of graves in the garden. Cimmino said that currently visitors can obtain a map of the garden from the church office. It was reported that former Sexton David Mikus wanted to digitize the map. Laura Downes said that would investigate a website called "Find a Grave."

### **Other Business**

#### **Security**

Ray Hencir, who has been investigating security arrangements for the church, said he had reviewed what was already in place with the director of the pre-school and would be meeting with the ushers to discuss security protocols.

**Safe Church Training**

After some discussion, it was agreed that Saints on the Shoreline should pay for Safe Church or similar training for its volunteers. The motion was made by Laura Downes and seconded by Ray Hencir.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 on a motion by Anastasia King that was seconded by Gary Cimmino.