

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m.
Farmer Hall

Vestry Members in Attendance: Gary Naegel, John Armstrong, Steve Domienik, Lucinda Embersits, Kristen Garnett, Cathy Golden, Amanda Hayward, Rebecca Ratstetter, Louise Beecher, Alan Miller, Art Criddle

Absent: Colleen McHugh, Cathy Golden, Mark Auletta

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Check In**
- 3. Committee Reports**

Outreach:

At the request of Father Steve Domienik, the vestry approved the expenditure of \$500 from the Outreach Fund to help sponsor the Bishop's 5K Race on May 9. This annual event raises money for the Bishop's Fund for Children, which supports programs for at-risk children in Connecticut. The motion was made by Rebecca Ratstetter and seconded by Lucinda Embersits.

The vestry approved the expenditure of \$1,500 by the Outreach Committee to support the school fees of Ugandan orphans Cathy, Calvin and Joyce Mary, plus the expenditure of another \$90 to pay for the wire transfer. The motion was made by John Armstrong and seconded by Alan Miller.

At the request of Mary Merkle-Scotland, the vestry committed \$2,500 from the Outreach Fund to help St. Andrew's volunteers defray the cost of the annual mission trip to the Dominican Republic. The money will be divided evenly among the volunteers. The motion was made by Rebecca Ratstetter and seconded by Art Criddle. Kristen Garnett abstained from voting since her daughter will be one of the volunteers taking part in the trip.

At the request of Outreach Committee Chair Kim Hodgson, the vestry approved the plan to hold St. Andrew's 3rd annual Cookie Walk during coffee hour Sunday, April 26. The money

raised will help fund a mission trip to Niagara Falls by students grades 7-12 the week of July. The motion was made by Amanda Hayward and seconded by Gary Naegel.

4. Approval of January and February minutes.

The vestry voted to approve the minutes of its January and February meetings. The motion was made by Art Criddle and seconded by Amanda Hayward.

5. Treasurer's Report (Cathy)

The vestry approved the February Treasurer's report prepared by Cathy Golden. The motion to accept was made by Kristen Garnett and seconded by Lucinda Embersits.

6. Church School and Service Times

The Rev. Steve Domienik explained that the existing Sunday School/Sunday Service schedule was problematic because a large number of the children who regularly attend Sunday school also are in the choir. Since Sunday School takes place between 9:30 and 10:10 a.m., they must either leave their classes early or skip them entirely when the choir is performing.

It was noted that the scheduling of the church school has been a continuing issue over the years. It was agreed to put the issue on the agenda of April's Vestry meeting, and invite Sunday School Interim Director Mary Merkle-Scotland, Music Committee Co-Chair Steve Van Ness, Music Director Grant Underwood, and Verger David Mikus to attend.

7. Farmer Hall kitchen, choir room, repair and re-design projects

The Vestry discussed the upcoming renovation and repair of Farmer Hall, but did not pass any formal resolutions regarding the project. It was informally agreed that there should be a steering committee that would oversee choir room and kitchen subcommittees. Gary Naegel recommended that the church seek LEED certification. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, and is a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices.

The renovation project will be financed with \$232,000 from a bequest by the late Ann Sherman.

8. Closing Prayer

9. The move to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Louise Beecher, Vestry Clerk