

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting

May 19, 2015, 7 p.m.
Farmer Hall

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

Absent: Colleen McHugh

Guest: Steve Van Ness

Opening Prayer

1. Minutes

The minutes of the April 21 regular meeting and the April 30 special meeting were approved as amended. The motion was made by Lucinda Embersits and seconded by Art Criddle.

2. Service Times and Church School

Father Steve Domienik reported that a job description for a new church school coordinator was being put together and that he hoped the position could be advertised by the end of the week.

The service times were being re-examined because as it currently stands, parents of children who acolyte and/or sing in the choir sometimes have to stay at the church most of the morning, and not simply for the service. Also, students who sing in the choir must leave their church school classes early to get reading for the 10:15 service. This has had a strong negative effect on the entire church school program. It was noted in previous discussions that St. Andrews' is unique in offering two distinct styles of service – a traditional service at 8:30 and a contemporary service at 10:15 a.m.

Some consideration had been given to eliminate music from the 8:30 service. However, Steve Van Ness, who co-chairs the music committee with Jaime Polk, said that the committee music was too important to the parishioners to give up. Consequently, it agreed to perform at both services. Van Ness admitted this would put a strain on the choir, but suggested that using solo musicians at the early service might provide some relief.

Rebecca Rastetter made a motion to move Sunday's traditional service from 8:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. and have not acolytes, and to move the 10:15 contemporary service to 9:30 a.m. The second

service will have a choir and acolytes and the church school will start after communion. The change will be made in September when St. Andrew's resumes regular service hours. The motion was seconded by Mark Auletta and was unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

The April treasurer's report was accepted as presented by Cathy Golden. Mark Auletta made the motion and Gary Naegel seconded.

4. St. Andrew's Community Garden

The vestry formally approved the creation of a St. Andrew's Community Garden in Bauer Park. Lucinda Embersits made the motion and Mark Auletta seconded.

Gary Naegel explained that the garden is a 20-by 20-foot plot in Bauer Park and that the produce will be donated to local soup kitchens and the town's Food Pantry. Those organizations already have arrangements in place to pick up donations at Bauer Park. Leasing the plot for the summer would cost the parish \$25, but that the purchase of additional supplies might bring the overall cost to \$500. Donations of tools, seeds, plants and fertilizer were being sought. Naegel said he thought the project could be managed by four to six volunteers.

5. Communications/Website Update

John Armstrong reported that he and Terry Sinclair are working together on updating the church's current website. The site is St. Andrew's profile to the outside world and its appearance is especially crucial as the congregation searches for a new priest. Armstrong said a second project could involve switching the site to a new platform and is expected to take six to eight months. Treasurer Cathy Golden said there was money in the budget to hire outside help, if needed.

6. Building and Grounds Committee: Kitchen Update

Alan Miller reported that a committee to oversee this project had been formed and had met once. A cabinet supplier has taken measurements and a proposal has been requested from a kitchen design firm based in Old Lyme that has created kitchens in 20 other churches. He said he hoped to have some preliminary cost estimates by the next month. Miller said re-doing the kitchen was expected to take three months and that a temporary wall could be erected to separate the rest of Farmer Hall from it while construction was going on. The choir room, which is also slated for renovation, could be done comparatively quickly, he said.

7. Church Picnic

Mark Auletta, who had volunteered to organize the annual picnic at the Surf Club, reported that there would no charge for parishioners to enter the town-owned park. He said that Ray Hencir

would serve as grill-master for the hamburgers and hotdogs, and that attendees would bring side dishes. The picnic will be held on June 14.

8. Resignation

Father Steve Domienik, who had previously declared his intention to seek a position at another parish, announced that he had received a call to be priest in charge at St. John's Episcopal Church in Westland, Mich., and would be leaving St. Andrew's earlier than expected. His last Sunday here would be July 5 and he would be leaving Madison by the end of that week. He explained that the vestry would first have to accept his official resignation, the wardens would then contact the bishop.

The search process for a new priest was already underway before Father Domienik received his call; the vestry was told that the bishop was planning to send to the church for its consideration a recently retired priest who could serve until a new priest-in-charge could be found.

The vestry moved to accept Father Steve Domienik's resignation "with great regret and with great thanks for his terrific service over the last four and a half years." The motion was made by John Armstrong and seconded by Art Criddle and was unanimously adopted.

9. Resurrection Garden

The vestry approved a plan to set up a "donate a bush" table in the church narthex to raise money for the restoration of the Resurrection Garden. The motion was made by Kristen Garnett and seconded by Cathy Golden.

Lucinda Embersits explained that a major renovation is underway in the garden, which is located on the church grounds and is the last resting place of a number of parishioners and/or their family members. Dead trees were taken out in the fall and now plans are underway to landscape the southern edge with blue hydrangeas and spreading evergreens. The "donate a bush" table will be seeking donations to purchase the new bushes.

1. Adjournment

The move to adjourn was made by Art Criddle, seconded by Louise Beecher. It passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Louise Beecher, Vestry Clerk