

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

Sept. 22, 2015, 7 p.m.
Farmer Hall

Vestry Members in Attendance: Gary Naegel, John Armstrong, Kristen Garnett, Cathy Golden, Louise Beecher, Alan Miller, Art Criddle, Cathy Golden, Mark Auletta, Amanda Hayward the Rev. Jennings Matheson, Colleen McHugh, Rebecca Rastetter.

Absent: Lucinda Embersits.

Opening Prayer

1. Minutes

The minutes of the August 18 meeting were approved as amended. The motion was made by Kristen Garnett and seconded by Art Criddle.

2. Treasurer's report.

The June treasurer's report was approved. The motion was made by the Rev. Jennings Matheson and seconded by Amanda Hayward.

Treasurer Cathy Golden reported on the positive results of the 2013 audit of St. Andrew's finances. She said the only issue raised by the auditors was the church's practice of counting Sunday collections on Tuesday instead of immediately after services on Sunday. However, she noted that the practice – a longstanding one that accommodated the schedules of the volunteers performing the task – was not a major issue and would not change. Golden added that the parish is one of the few in Connecticut that audits its books every year.

3. Committee Updates

- **Building and Grounds: Kitchen Renovation**

Alan Miller, who is heading the project to renew Farmer Hall, reported on plans for the kitchen. Miller said he hoped to have the kitchen design finalized the next day. He said he has been working with the town's fire marshal on the issue of the oven hood, which must be of commercial quality and have a fire suppressant system. He said that four bids have been received, and a deposit of \$8,000-\$9,000 will be made to the one selected.

The floor of the renovated kitchen will be commercial grade sheet linoleum.

Although the current refrigerator will be kept, but everything else in the kitchen area will have to be packed up and moved – including an extensive collection of kitchen utensils or varying condition that have been amassed over the years. He recommended that any not

wanted by members of the congregation be temporarily packed, then put up for sale at the Holiday Fair.

Meanwhile, Miller said, volunteers were needed to organize the Sunday coffee supplies, table cloths and other items that will be kept.

- **Stewardship**

Kristen Garnett reported that although the Stewardship Committee had no official chairperson, committee members had met three weeks before to set up the annual stewardship drive. It was agreed that cards would be mailed to all church members with a personal note. There also was agreement that the membership list needed to be cleaned up, she said.

The cards were then distributed to the vestry members, who devoted the next few minutes writing a personal note of their own choosing on each one.

- **Sunday School/Youth Groups**

It was reported that the only outside candidate who had responded to the church's advertisement for a Sunday School/Youth Group director had withdrawn her application. However, Shelby Auletta had agreed to take over the organizational duties of the position to relieve the pressure on Mary Merkle-Scotland, who is filling the position on an interim basis. A few teachers were still needed for the Sunday School classes.

- **Welcoming**

Kristen Garnett reported that efforts were underway to organize the name tags for members that are kept in the church narthex, something that had been neglected in recent years.

Old and New Business

4. Interim Rector's Report/Need for Manpower

Interim Rector Jennings Matheson noted that none of the parish's committees have chairmen at the moment. She said that was an area of concern, as was the demands on the energy of parish volunteers. She said the congregation needed to develop a system that feeds its volunteers, and the current system risked sucking people of energy dry. Matheson said that transition process to find a new rector might provide the opportunity for the parish to redefine itself. This might be a good time to think of yourselves anew, she said, adding that "the parish(ioners) that can say who they are is much more attractive."

Alan Miller said the vestry needed to put together a list of "who does what" and then look at the gaps in the organization. Miller said he saw the lack of connection among different groups as a problem.

5. Refugees

St. Andrew's has a tradition of assisting refugees, having helped resettle a family from Kosovo during the war there, and having provided housing for a family from New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

The current refugee crisis created by the civil war in Syria has created hundreds of thousands of refugees. However, Alan Miller reported that there are currently no for the parish to provide similar assistance to the hundreds of thousands of refugees created by the ongoing conflict in Syria.

6. Rankins: Dancing for the Cause

The Vestry voted to commit the sum of \$1,500 to the team of Don and Nancy Rankin, who will compete Nov. 13 in Gala of the Stars: Dancing for the Cause. The motion was made by Mark Auletta and seconded by Amanda Hayward. The money will be taken from the Outreach Fund. The event, in which local celebrity couples compete against each other "Dancing with the Stars"-style will raise money to build the next Raise the Roof Habitat for Humanity house. St. Andrew's is a long-time supporter of these charities.

7. Church Events Calendar

Gary Naegel said that currently the parish is working without a whole-year time-frame when scheduling events. He said that the vestry has to define what events are important and schedule them accordingly.

Minutes respectfully submitted Louise Beecher, Vestry Clerk