

Grace-Calvary Episcopal Church  
Vestry Minutes  
April 17, 2017

Present: Cat Sherlock, John Ballard, Amy Amason, Mike Short, David Todd, Heather Murray, Walton Smith, Bobby Aycock, Sam Buice

Absent: Lynda Ann Loring and Matt Mixon

**Gathering**

Amy Amason led the Vestry in the Lighting of the Candle, Ringing of the Bell, Opening Prayer, Intercessions and Thanksgivings, and the Reflection.

Review and Approval of March Minutes:

Walton Smith moved to approve the minutes as submitted, Cat Sherlock seconded. Minutes stand approved.

Welcoming of New Clerk:

Heather Murray led the Vestry in welcoming Kathleen McDuffie as the new Clerk to the Vestry.

**Reports**

Treasurer's Report:

Bobby Aycock gave the report to the Vestry. March revenues exceeded expenses by \$2,676, resulting in approximately \$21,500 net income as of end of March. Pledge receipts are \$7,700 over expected; non-pledge receipts are greater than twice the expected budget. Overall budget is 12% below expenses. State Farm investments are showing favorable interest, with no red flags.

Follow up on Parish House HVAC system:

Unit has been ordered, A&A Electric estimates one day installation to be scheduled on a Friday if possible.

Pew restoration project:

Wally Wenn has completed outside surfaces, and will continue with altar rail and inner areas.

Priest's Report:

Father Sam had no report except "Easter! Lent! Holy week!"

**Old Business**

Update on Joining Chamber of Commerce:

Father Sam attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting with nonprofits and determined that it is a good resource for knowledge and coordination of referral information. He will join using discretionary funds for this year's membership fee.

Update on website online donations/pay service:

Heather Murray and Bobby Aycock submitted all application paperwork to VANCO and Amy Amason and Lane Gresham met to discuss how to launch the site (possibly a soft launch). She discussed the creation of a document and announcement that will explain to parishioners the options for giving (online, plate, etc...). They discussed adding a link with frequently asked questions to be placed on the church website with the giving link. Access to the VANCO site is now available and they are ready to start putting up information.

Holy Cow/CAT and Scheduling:

Mike Short, Heather Murray, and Lynda Ann Loring met on April 6 to review a Vital Signs sample report and chose the modules and optional questions. The survey instrument is composed of 75 standard questions, two CAT Supplemental Modules, and five optional questions. The Survey can be designed to focus on what our congregation believes is important for the future of our church.

Holy Cow survey will begin on April 21, 2017, and close May 22, 2017. John McDaniel updated the Active Members List to contact parishioners for the survey. Wednesday Newsletters will have a Survey Monkey Link for the duration. Non-email users will be contacted by standard mail.

John Ballard made a motion to hire Holy Cow Sr. Consultant, Robyn W. Strain, to come and interpret the results. Her fee will be paid from the Vestry Initiative Fund. Cat Sherlock seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The cost of the survey is \$415 and the Robin's interpretation fee is an additional \$1000 plus travel expenses.

Vestry decided to use CAT Supplemental Module number 10 (Flow Module (i.e.: Outreach)) and number 5 (Strategic Planning Module). The five optional questions will be pulled from the other modules, including selected questions from the Stewardship, Communications, and Priest-in-Charge modules.

If possible, Robyn will travel to Grace-Calvary and interpret the survey in June, should her calendar allow. The Vestry will then prepare an executive summary to present to the congregation and then plan to publish the three-year plan by August.

Update on Outreach Committee Structure:

Father Sam called for and attended the meeting held on 3/27 and stated that it was positive. A few days following the meeting, Russell Johnson and Harriet Beech presented letters of resignation from the committee. Both were supportive of the changes but felt that they could not continue serving.

Walton Smith moved to approve the committee's budget requests for Habersham Christian Learning Center (\$600); Habersham Homeless Shelter (\$600), and Alliance for African American Music (\$200). Cat Sherlock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on new Youth Leader:

Father Sam reported that JW is doing well and is involved in the Sunday and Wednesday night youth gatherings. He has plans on growing participation. A spaghetti dinner fundraiser is scheduled on 4/28/17. The youth will participate in the 9:30 and 11:15 Sunday services on 4/30/17.

Progress on Godly Play training:

David Todd related that Kellen Jenkins has agreed to chair the committee and organize the training up to the 5th grade. Sam suggested Jennifer Tench be contacted, as she previously worked on plans to

reorganize youth Christian education. David said that he and the committee will begin scheduling the training (date to be determined) and hopes to have the new system up by the fall.

Stand for the Vulnerable (update):

Walton Smith will be meeting with three Gainesville churches that are currently sponsoring a refugee family. Walton is looking for volunteers to join with Resurrection Episcopal and Sautee Presbyterian to undergo training and learn about the struggles and successes the Gainesville churches are currently having. He will begin publicizing the event soon with hopes of recruiting parish members. These activities will be publicized on 4/30/17.

Ramps: Still developing resources, volunteers, and recommendations for ramps (Ray Rowell), Soup Kitchen, and contacting Tommy Walker regarding storage of the ramp committee's trailer.

### **New Business**

Cemetery Committee:

Amy Amason reported on the plan to launch cemetery information on the church website, including the cemetery plot application and map.

180th Anniversary (2018):

Heather Murray suggested that a committee be formed to begin planning the 180th Anniversary of Grace Calvary. Since the 175th was a large celebration, thoughts were that the 180th be smaller and be a focus of the 2018 year-round stewardship campaign. She also suggested that an anniversary event be held every 10 years thereafter.

Rain barrels fundraiser:

Moved to next month's agenda by Cat Sherlock.

Letter of Agreement:

The Vestry and Father Sam discussed the Bishop's approval of Sam as the new Rector of Grace-Calvary. They reviewed his new Letter of Agreement via e-mail prior to the meeting. The Letter of Agreement was approved by the Vestry at the meeting and then signed in the presence of the Vestry by Father Sam, Heather Murray (Sr. Warden), and Mike Short (Jr. Warden).

Working on 3-Year Plan and Mission:

The Vestry decided to schedule a three hour work day for a Saturday (date to be determined) to work on the 3-year plan. Father Sam will research dates for this meeting and send out options.

The Vestry discussed moving to Consent Agendas, to be submitted prior to the meetings. With these, the Vestry will vote on and approve simple actions (such as approval of minutes) outside of the meeting to save time during the meeting. Amy Amason will continue working on formulating a plan to transition to consent agendas.

Sam will be attending Continuing Education course requirements for two weeks beginning on 4/20/17. Doris will serve as priest during his absence.

Adjournment

**Reminder: next Vestry Meeting May 22, 2017**

