

Minutes of Vestry Meeting
December 19, 2023

Attended: Steve DeCaro, Diane Feil, Tom Hadlock, Tom Horan, Fr. Chris Jubinski, Marj Kulesa, Ashley Lueck, Steve Turner, Sandy Wyman

Absent: Carol Fitton, Madeline Glover, Barbara Pettus, Tom Simson

The meeting began at 6:12 p.m. with a prayer and blessing from Fr. Chris.

A tiny correction needed to be made to one of the three items in the Consent Agenda – the Housing Allowance. Fr. Chris doesn't get any money from the church, but the IRS allows clergy to deduct certain things off his taxes, such as cleaning supplies for the rectory. He must prove that he has spent the money but can't until he has a passed resolution from the vestry. The correction to the Consent Agenda is to change the name of the church to St. Mark's. The information was cut and pasted from another document and an old parish name accidentally remained on the document. The other two items of the Consent Agenda are the minutes and the Annual Contribution to the Diocese for its operation. Fr. Chris asked for a motion to accept the minutes, the housing allowance, and the contribution to the diocese. The motion was made by Diane and seconded by Steve D. All were in favor with no one opposed.

Fr. Chris indicated Bright Beginnings is starting to turn a corner in terms of their being able to pay their own expenses. There are some growing pains with New York Blood and Cancer. They are paying their rent on time, which is approximately \$10,000 per month. At this time, their renovation costs are still being deducted from their rent payment, in addition to the brokers fee we are required to pay for this listing, so we are only netting about \$2,000 per month from the rent, but it is more than we had been receiving before they moved in. Tom is amortizing the \$99,000 brokers fee over the next twelve months. However, we were required to pay all the money up front. New York Blood and Cancer plans to be in the Beinecke Building at least 10 years.

Fr. Chris said that pledging is a little bit behind in terms of the number of people who have made their commitment for this year. He also indicated that, as a parish, the one thing that surprises him a bit is that the percentage of what

people give is fairly small compared to what they may be able to give. Other than that, things are going well.

We recently received a generous donation that allowed us to purchase an ice machine, which is getting ready to be installed. Today, a dear parishioner donated to the church another \$50,000 check, which Fr. Chris is requesting be put toward the organ first to make sure that we can finish the organ installation. There are three things he would like to try to use the money for:

1. Finish the organ
2. Purchase a new bell system to replace the current system which no longer works
3. Three new air conditioners for the parish hall

Diane added that we also need to use some of the money that is left to repair the stained glass window which is bowing, especially with the recent wind storms we have had. Marj suggested giving thought to having a fundraiser specifically for this. Fr. Chris put in a request for the company who installed the main windows along the side walls (Willet Houser) to come out and look at the window. They have not yet responded to him. He would like to have a few companies look at it to get estimates. He is going to have them look at all of the windows while they are here to see if there are any other issues.

Fr. Chris stated that we are blessed that every square inch of the facility is being used on many days of the week (the church, the Atwater Room, the parish hall, the chapel, Fr. Chris' office). He knows that there are some concerns about the fact that there is wood in the church, but there is nowhere else to store it, and it communicates to people that we are doing something, that we are working. He stated that the wood would not be able to be cleared out of the church prior to the Christmas services due to the storage issue. He said that last year the church was nowhere near close to capacity for any of the Christmas services. There was a brief discussion about how best to handle it in preparation for the services.

The final thing Fr. Chris mentioned was the passing of long time, much loved parishioner Fran Graham. Her service will be on Friday. Visitation will be on Thursday from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. and from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Werner Rothwell. Friday will be a funeral with a Eucharist. Her burial will be in Calverton. A reception in the parish hall will follow the burial. Kate is taking care of the list of

who will be bringing food to the reception. The Greening of the Church has been moved to Saturday morning at 9:00.

Fr. Chris indicated that there was nothing else he needed to speak about and asked if anyone had any questions. The vestry had a brief check in period. Fr. Chris mentioned that we had our Blue Christmas service on Sunday. It was not very well attended - about 11. Hopefully next year it will be better attended when people know more about it.

Tom Hadlock asked about events at the church this year, such as the Chili Cookoff. Fr. Chris stated that the Chili Cookoff will be on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11 at 6:00 p.m. We have a number of people from outside the church who will be competing this year.

Fr. Chris asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Diane and seconded by Steve D. All were in favor with no one opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. with dinner following the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by Carol Jubinski