

## **St Matthew's Episcopal Church**

### **Vestry Meeting, Wednesday March 15th, 2023**

The vestry of St Matthew's met Wednesday, Mar 15th at 6pm via Zoom. Members present were Lee Storey (Sr. Warden), Melinda Hood (Jr. Warden), Chris Yarberry (Secretary), Deb Hansen (Treasurer), Ellen Gregan, Susan Alford and Selena Ellis. Also present was the Rev. Jay Bruno (Vicar) and the Rev. Nancy Cook (Deacon).

Compline was led by Rev. Bruno with responses by Rev. Cook.

Motion to accept February minutes as written by Deb Hansen, seconded by Ellen Gregan.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept February financial report by Ellen Gregan, seconded by Lee Storey.

Motion passed unanimously.

Average Sunday attendance for August was 40!

Rev. Bruno shared a question he had regarding James' Pantry on the financial report. The Keller Grant and gift from the Diocese is not reflected in the number on the report. There are also some Kroger gift cards remaining so we have additional funds there.

We had returning visitors Sunday past! Rev. Cook suggested we offer an opportunity for people in the congregation to request prayer during services. Rev. Bruno said we could and might also add something about it to the bulletin.

#### **Old Business**

Melinda confirmed that the Fellowship Hall pipe had been repaired and the bill had been left for Deb. Deb confirmed that the bill was paid and she took the bill/receipt so that we can get a discount on the church water bill. Rev. Cook will send a thank you card.

#### **New Business**

Rev. Bruno gave an update on the Facebook boosts. They are charged monthly at \$32 (\$8 per week x 4). They seem to be working so he would like to continue using them and be sure to link and promote our page. We have some small but consistent attendance at compline and morning prayer.

Rev. Bruno also shared that the McKinney's made him aware of our Church street sign at Boone and Reynolds being in disrepair. He shared a photo and the vestry agreed we need to get it fixed. Our other signs in the community are still in good shape.

Rev. Bruno made us aware of the higher heating bill recently. Susan has adjusted the settings and this is helping. Rev. Bruno added that the thermostat needs batteries and Susan said she would bring some. Deb changed the air filter recently. The vestry also discussed the recent problems with Summit Utilities billing.

Next Rev. Bruno asked us to review the current webpage for any corrections or updates. He suggested we might ask Frank to film new videos w/o masks, after we touch up the flower beds so the background for any outside filming looks nice.

Related to the flower beds, Selena suggested we send someone to the local plant sale to be held at the Saline County Fairgrounds, with money to buy flowers for the church flower beds. She can oversee the touch-up. Lee said her kids can help!

A motion to request an estimate on cost for getting new film for our webpage was made by Ellen Gregan, seconded by Melinda Hood. Deb Hansen asked for clarification and then the motion with clarification was approved unanimously.

Regarding lawn work, Rev Bruno and Lee thought it might be a good idea to ask the Boy Scouts to help with the lawn mowing once a month, since they use our facilities for free. Jay will ask Russell and also see if they can help with the flower bed upkeep.

Rev. Bruno also shared that a few church pews are loose and/or in need of minor repair. Lee said her and her husband can do this after tax season.

Rev. Bruno will be out on vacation the week of April 23rd. Father D can possibly serve as supply priest? Rev. Bruno will ask. Rev. Cook will preach!

Rev. Bruno received an email about a prayer list question: could we use the first name only to short the list? We also all agreed the list needs to be cleaned up. We can put out a request via the bulletin and in service to remove names that no longer need prayer.

Rev. Bruno also shared an issue/concern that was brought up in the Central Convocation Clericus Meetings. Some priests share a concern that churches might not be clearly promoting LGBTQ+ inclusivity because some groups are having LGBTQ+ exclusive social events and parties. The vestry agreed that the statement of inclusivity composed by Anita was well written and that it would be sufficient for letting everyone know where we stand on this issue. A motion to modify our webpage to add this statement of inclusivity written by Anita, was made by Melinda Hood, seconded by Ellen Gregan. The motion passed unanimously.

Selena and Susan gave an update on Anita's discernment committee and it is going well!

Motion to adjourn by Ellen Gregan, seconded by Melinda Hood.