

**St Matthew's Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Meeting, Wednesday Jan 18, 2023**

The vestry of St Matthew's met Wednesday, Jan 18th at 6pm via Zoom. Members present were Kyle Dennis (Jr. Warden), Deb Hansen (Treasurer), Chris Yarberry (Secretary), Ellen Gregan, Selena Ellis and Melinda Hood. 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 December minutes as written by Deb Hansen, seconded by Ellen Gregan. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept December financial report by Ellen Gregan, seconded by Melinda Hood. Motion passed unanimously.

Average Sunday attendance for August was 37.

The vestry discussed attendance and Facebook viewers, and the possibility of sharing our church Facebook page as a ministry (members could do this). Rev Cook expressed a desire to see attendance increase and the vestry agreed. Rev. Bruno suggested we look into boosting our Facebook page/posts and made a motion to experiment with this; the motion was seconded by Ellen Gregan and passed unanimously.

Rev. Bruno reported that the Worship and Special Events committee had a very good meeting. He thanked members of the committee, said things are going well and they will meet again in May/June.

The vestry revisited the idea of changing the colors on the church's electronic sign. Deb reported that Chuck said it can be difficult and a cloudy day or night time is ideal for getting the remote to work. We discussed alternate options; Kyle asked about the possibility of a software update, Ellen wondered if the firmware might also be updated. Rev. Bruno will investigate further.

Rev. Bruno reported on who had volunteered and also those who were not interested in becoming new vestry members. The vestry agreed to go with Lee and Susan who had volunteered.

Rev. Bruno reminded us that the annual meeting will be held January 29 between services with pastries and breakfast snacks. He also requested that committee reports be sent to secretary Chris Yarberry to be compiled for the report for our annual meeting.

Regarding delegates for the Diocesan Convention, we have Selena and Anita who have volunteered. Discussion about an alternate was held and the vestry asked secretary Chris Yarberry if he would be willing to serve as the alternate. He agreed.

Rev. Cook reminded us to let her know of any type of card (birthday day, thank you, anniversary or sympathy, etc.) that needs to be sent out for church members. Jay thanked her for doing this. He will also

consider making an announcement to the congregation about it.

Rev. Bruno also reported good news that a family (mother/daughter) was loading the food pantry on Sunday.

Treasurer Deb Hansen presented the budget proposal and gave an overview of it, including the news that 110% of the annual pledge was collected. A motion to accept the budget was made by Melina Hood and seconded by Ellen Gregan. The motion passed unanimously. Deb also reported that the vicarage and RB house are expected to remain rented for the year.

Rev. Cook shared that she would like to present Riley Curry with a certificate of thanks for his help with the food pantry.

Ellen Gregan suggested we have a gluten free option for cake or pastries for Laura and Anita at the annual meeting. Discussion of the best place to get this was held and Ellen and Rev. Bruno will work out who will pick it up, Ellen agreed to pay for the items. Rev. Bruno will also make sure we keep the gluten free host clear of the paten.

Rev. Bruno also reminded us of the request to sell the amp and some of the music stands, so Kyle will move them to the back room for now while Rev. Bruno works on finding a buyer.

Rev. Bruno reported an anonymous gift of \$500 was given and the donor asked it be used for the church. We discussed possibly using it for a new refrigerator for the flower guild flower storage. Rev. Bruno will check on this.

Rev. Bruno reported that the theme of our Lenten study this year will be compassion.

Deb Hansen proposed that we use money we get from the Kroger charity program for the pantry. Ellen Gregan made a motion that we carry out Deb's proposal to use Kroger charity funds for the food pantry and it was seconded by Selena Ellis. The motion passed unanimously. Deb also let us know that the Amazon smile program will be ending soon.

Rev. Cook reported a surplus of pencils from the prison ministry. The vestry agreed we could give them to local schools.

Rev. Bruno asked the vestry to do a quick review of the church membership database and we helped him update his spreadsheet. He will add or delete and finalize the updates appropriately based on the vestry's help with this.

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