

**St Matthew's Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Meeting, Wednesday Feb 15, 2023**

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

Compline was led by Rev. Bruno with responses by Ellen Gregan.

Motion to accept January minutes as written by Ellen Gregan, seconded by Lee Storey.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept January financial report by Melinda Hood, seconded by Ellen Gregan.

Motion passed unanimously.

Average Sunday attendance for August was 42!

The vestry welcomed new vestry members Lee Storey and Susan Alford!

Positions still to be filled were Jr. Warden and Secretary, and these roles were taken by Melinda Hood and Chris Yarberry respectively.

Rev. Bruno shared a financial report from Treasurer Deb Hansen: we have a 12-month CD coming due. The vestry agreed to allow this CD to roll over. Motion by Rev. Bruno to roll over the CD, seconded by Lee Storey. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris Ellis passed a database for average Sunday attendance to Rev. Bruno.

A request was made for an update on the pipe repair for the Fellowship Hall.

Rev. Bruno gave an update and report on the Facebook boosts, audience data and page views. Boosts cost \$8 per week. He is experimenting with these and has added a link to our webpage that will direct people to our Facebook page/group. The church will begin to pay for the boosts as there is a budget for this. The vestry agreed to continue boosting our Facebook page for another month, especially in light of the big upcoming church events surrounding Easter.

Rev. Bruno also provided a quick clarification on our card ministry. Susan will handle birthday cards and Rev. Cook will handle get-well, sympathy and thank you cards.

Rev. Bruno also brought up the idea of adding additional giving categories to our tithe envelopes. He will look into this further. Additional categories might include Jame's pantry, annual pledge, flowers, etc. Steve might be able to help with this.

Rev. Bruno also made the vestry aware of a request for sponsorship made by the Long Hills Golf Club (via email prior to the vestry meeting). The vestry agreed that we are not interested.

The vestry also discussed ideas for new member incorporation:

- finding out if they want to join or be confirmed
- more focus and attention given to newcomers
- perhaps give a information form to fill out after they've visited a few times
- verify the rules and guidelines for new members and confirmants (Rev. Bruno)
- consider bringing back newcomer welcome dinners (once or twice per year?)

Weekday evening dinner vs. morning brunch between services)

Rev. Bruno suggested we review our Christmas traditions in order to bring a new eye and fresh look to them. We should select a day for going through our existing decorations and get rid of things no longer being used or broken/unusable. We also agreed it would be good to make the greening of the church easier, safer and more efficient. We might do all this in summer or by October. The vestry will think on this and we will revisit later in the year. Rev. Bruno also assured us that he wants to follow the customary (traditions of the local church) so he is careful with making any changes and mindful of protecting traditions, while still updating or modifying them as needed. The vestry also agreed it would be good to consider a new, safer location for the storage of our Christmas decor to allow easier access.

Rev. Bruno let us know that the 2022 parochial report is ready. He gave us a quick overview but will send a PDF by email for closer review and approval via email. Once approved, the clerk of the vestry (secretary Chris Yarberry) will also sign the paper hard copy along with other required signers.

Motion to adjourn by Ellen Gregan, seconded by Lee Storey.