

St Matthew's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting, Wednesday July 19, 2023

The vestry of St Matthew's met Wednesday, July 19 at 6pm via Zoom. Members present were Lee Storey (Sr. Warden), Chris Yarberry (Secretary), Deb Hansen (Treasurer), 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 June minutes as written by Lee Storey , seconded by Deb Hansen.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to accept June financial report by Lee Storey, seconded by Susan Alford.
Motion passed unanimously.

Average Sunday attendance for June was 39.

The vestry briefly discussed visitors. Rev. Bruno shared stats on what brings in new members and visitors: the #1 reason was that a friend invited them to come to church with them!

Old Business

There was a lightning strike on the vicarage. Deb has received money for the repair and gave us a report on the damage with an estimate of \$6,300. There was scorching on and around the ceiling and the tree will need to be cut. Susan has a good recommendation for the tree service. Lee also shared that another tree fell in or near the church parking lot and they pulled it away. Rev. Bruno will have all the tree cut needs assessed.

Update on the "Little Free Church Library": Rev. Bruno shared Kelly's plan and pictures. Selena will provide funds from Buckley's Memorial and we will name the library in his honor and have a blessing for it. There was general discussion about book donations and the food pantry complimenting the library.

New Business

Rev. Joann Buchanan who visited our church a little while back had moved back to Colorado. She came to visit recently and wants to move back to Benton. She is interested in renting the vicarage and would attend our church. There was general discussion and the vestry is excited about her addition to the church!

Rev. Bruno shared that he received a suggestion that we put up a sign to let people know that the pantry is filled as often as possible and maintained by volunteers. Lee will make the sign and laminate and post.

Rev. Bruno also made the vestry aware of a negative comment we received on Facebook during 8:30 service. Jay hid the comment and did not respond. The vestry agreed this was the right way to handle it.

Rev. Bruno also let us know that someone mowed the church lawn but he wasn't sure who?! He will

inquire with Boy Scouts and find out. Lee shared that her family knows a young man who is a friend of their family (Harrison Key) and he is working to save money for a car and is willing to mow for us for a fair price. He would use our equipment. The vestry agreed to use the young man as a backup option if the Boy Scouts are unable to mow.

Rev. Bruno also reminded us about his upcoming vacation dates: July 24-31 and August 21-28. Daryl will cover but may be helping El Dorado; we can do morning prayer if needed.

Additional reminders about minor repairs around the church: the phone has been fixed but the thermostats are still acting up.

There was also a concern presented about possible homeless people camping in the woods nearby the church and also walking through the woods nearby. Kelly had volunteered to run them off but Jay asked him to hold off on this for safety concerns. We also have someone who sometimes sleeps on the church porch but he seems to be harmless and the police are aware of him. There was discussion about people hanging around and walking through the area/yard. Deb also shared some concerns about people loitering and some theft of outside items at the vicarage and RB house. Deb will ask for an update on this from the RB house tenant. The vestry agreed to leave well alone, but if the tenants are bothered we will take action.

Rev. Bruno thanked everyone who helped with the CJohn run to get food for the pantry.

Lee made a motion that we hire Harrison as a backup for mowing as needed. Selena seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Jay will follow up with the Boy Scouts mowing plan and coordinate this with hiring Harrison if needed.

Bishop meet and greets and the new Bishop's election will take place in August.

Deb also gave us an update on our pencil collection efforts. We have 1,604 pencils currently and will continue collecting until July 31.

Motion to adjourn by Selena, seconded by Lee.