

## Vestry Minutes

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Oxford, Ohio

Jan. 8, 2019



**Present:** Sara Palmer, Rector; Bob Benson, Sr. Warden; Elaine Brandner, Jr. Warden; Jim Michael, Treasurer; Stacey Peterson, Clerk; Vestry Members: John Harper, Lisa Herrmann, Peter Lindsay, Hugo Olaiz, Chris Shoker, Diana Uhlman and Debbie Williams

**Absent:** Martin Ganev and Mila Ganeva

**Spiritual reflections** were presented by Debbie.

**Agenda for 1-8-2019 meeting:** Unanimously approved. Bob moved; Elaine seconded.

**Approval of 12-11-2018 Vestry meeting minutes:** Unanimously approved. Elaine moved; Bob seconded.

### Reminders – Bob and Sara

- Next Vestry meeting is February 12 at Bob's house.
- The mid-week service will be every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Bede, starting February 6. On the first and third Wednesdays of the month, this service will include healing prayer and anointing with oil.
- Annual Parish Meeting will be held Sunday, February 24 at 12 p.m. It will include a bagel and deli lunch. Vestry members will contribute salads and help set up and clean up.

### Rector's Report – Sara Palmer

- **Growing in numbers:** Fifteen children attended the 3 p.m. Christmas Eve children's service. Several new people were at the 9 p.m. Feast of the Nativity Christmas Eve service Two new families have joined Holy Trinity, and one individual has expressed an intention to join. Average attendance in 2018 was 83 people per week. There were four funerals during the year. The church's numbers have remained steady despite the deaths of some longtime parishioners.
- **The Big Read:** Sara thanked Vestry members who participated in reading "A Journey with Luke." She is ordering "A Journey Through Acts" by Marek P. Zabriskie.
- **Adult Forum:** Sunday, January 13, Peter Williams will share his faith story.
- **Student Ministry:** Student Bible Study begins Wednesday, February 6.
- **Pastoral care:** Sara visited three home-bound parishioners.
- **Women's lunch:** 10 people attended the January luncheon.
- **Liturgical planning and presiding:** The burial service for Cindy Julian was held December 23. Sara will preside and preach at Hannah Kempf's and Harry Hensel's wedding in Indianapolis. Sara met with the Worship Committee to plan services through Pentecost.
- **Staff:** Two new nursery workers – Jenna Breuer and Hannah Spector -- are doing Safe Church Training and will start work in February.
- **Professional development:** Sara continues to attend Healthy Congregations program.

### 2018 December Financial Report – Bob for Jim

The 2018 Financial Statement will be tweaked and presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Vestry unanimously accepted the December Financial Report. Bob moved; Hugo seconded.

### **2019 budget and pledge summary to date – Bob for Jim**

- **Pledges:** We are waiting for 11 pledges to come in. If they pledge at same rate of past years, it will be another \$22,000. 2019 Pledges that are in so far have increased 5.7% from 2018. But that increase doesn't cover the amount lost from people who have passed away or left Oxford.
- **Capital Campaign:** The Vestry must discuss how we can raise more money this year. Common wisdom is that a parish should do a capital campaign every five years. Holy Trinity could do one to cover the \$200,000 mortgage for the new wing. We will no longer have money from the reserves or from gifts to defray those payments.
- **Outreach:** One key piece missing from 2019 budget is the amount Holy Trinity has contributed in the past to outreach efforts. However, we do have the Christmas and Easter donations going to outreach. In addition, Karen Schilling noted that we haven't monetized providing the Community Room and the Undercroft to community groups at no charge. This amount demonstrates that we aren't falling back in terms of outreach.
- **Budget shortfall:** First page, line 4210 shows that the additional revenue to be raised in 2019 to balance the budget is zero. Some things have been cut back, putting the church in a more-or-less solvent position for 2019. However, that situation will change at the end of this year. We must start making people aware of the Scrip and Amazon Smile programs and other ways of raising cash. We need to explain that we aren't asking people to spend more money, but to spend their money through these programs.
- **Annual Parish Meeting:** We will look at the 2019 budget one more time before the annual meeting in February.

### **Boiler update – Elaine**

- One of the two boilers went down at Christmas and has been repaired. That process revealed that we should have been putting in an additive into the water used in the boiler to prevent damage to the system. It was done in the past by a parishioner but hasn't been done in the last few years.
- One contractor has quoted \$400 per month to provide the additive service, \$648 for a new feeder and \$1,100 to repipe the new feeder for a total of \$6,548 for 2019.
- Chris and Elaine will look into getting proposals from other vendors.

The \$6,548 expenditure for the boiler was approved with proviso that we may get a better price. Bob moved; Diana seconded.

The meeting was adjourned following a prayer led by Debbie.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stacey Peterson*

Stacey Peterson, Clerk