

Minutes of the 191th Annual Meeting Parish of St John's Church, Salisbury, Connecticut

January 24, 2016

Vestry: Senior Warden, Marian Schwaikert; Junior Warden, Meike Armstrong; Treasurer, Theo O'Neill; Clerk, Garrett Richardson; David Bayersdorfer; Karen Byers; Lynn Curtis; Danny Lake; Susan Wood.

The meeting was opened at 11:30 by Father David Sellery, Priest in Charge. Garrett Richardson, Clerk noted that there were 36 parishioners present, which constituted a quorum. The first order of business was a review of the Minutes of the 2015 Annual meeting. These Minutes were then moved by Jane Pinkney, seconded by Meike Armstrong and approved by all.

Theo O'Neill presented the Treasurer's Report for 2015 and the Budget for 2016. Our investment portfolio with the ECCT (Episcopal Church of Connecticut) was impacted by the volatility in the stock market during 2015 reducing it by ½ %. Our income projections for 2015 came in under where we had hoped they would be, but our expenses also were lower due to the cost saving measures of a reduction of full-time office staff to a part-time book keeper, energy-cost saving measures and a systematic reduction in overall expenses. The result was a total budget variance of \$5,435, with no more than \$1,000 variance in any one category. This is an acceptable degree of error for a budget of \$300,000. Taking the results of 2015 into account the Financial Team prepared the budget for 2016 to be \$286,270 representing a 7% decrease from 2015.

David Bayersdorfer reported on the Annual Appeal for 2016. At this time we have heard from 50 families and are still hoping to hear from 20 more who have not yet responded. Our pledgers at all levels are generous, but there is still more to do to meet the needs of the church without continuing to draw down on our investments. The Vestry has undertaken the development of a sustainable budget as one of three goals for our work with our Priest in Charge as part of the renewal process determined by the ECCT. Please come forward in support of your church so that we can ensure that St. John's remains a viable contributing entity for the delivery of Christ's message in Salisbury for generations to come.

Karen Byers reported on our ongoing work with the ECCT. We are half-way through our Priest-in-Charge process. Recently the Vestry met with Rev. Virginia Army to answer the question: What is God calling us to do in Salisbury? We identified the strengths of St. Johns as the character, abilities, generosity and spirit of the parishioners; the beautiful building located in the center of the town of Salisbury and our ongoing participation in outreach activities both close to home and in the world at large. Karen presented a chart of our three main goals for St. John's: 1) to expand the use of our building facilities; 2) to develop a sustainable budget and 3) to design a plan to develop the leadership of St. Johns into the future.

Marian Schwaikert reported on the year's mission activities specified in *St. John's Salisbury: Progress Report for 2014-2015*. Highlights include new ministries, such as the Angel Tree and Back-to-School giving projects; increased outreach across the Northwest Corner exemplified by Father Sellery's enhanced communication strategies, such as the automated phone tree, community access television services and an expanded website; and ecumenical collaborations such as Vacation Bible Camp; the Pop-Up Christmas Pageant at Noble Horizons and the upcoming Red, White and Blue Memorial Service in collaboration with the American Veterans of Litchfield County which will be held for the first time ever in Salisbury this spring.

Meike Armstrong reported on the stewardship of our buildings and grounds, also delineated in *St. John's Salisbury: Progress Report for 2014-2015*. This year we have re-negotiated our parking lot lease with our neighbor the Marketplace of Salisbury; undertaken the clean-up of the parking lot and garden with the collaboration of our own parishioners and extra help from the boys at Salisbury School; improved the energy efficiency at St. John's by installing LED bulbs, putting the thermostats on timers, and having the furnace cleaned and serviced for the first time in recorded memory. We have also replaced the bathroom floor in the upper parish hall, got a new PA system for the sanctuary and recycled the old system for use in the lower parish hall. Finally, Theo O'Neill has been officially designated our in-house Minister of Magic for the Lift of Faith.

Other business –

There was a brief discussion of the Fall Festival. It was re-vitalized this season and very successful. The Committee discussed possible changes for next year to enhance our mission.

There was a brief discussion of expanding communication to our parishioners who are not internet-inclined. Father Sellery pointed out that hard copy of the monthly Minutes of the Vestry, with budgets, are posted on the bulletin board in the upper parish hall and on file in the office.

The New Directory of St. John's Members is in process. Father Sellery is currently updating everyone's addresses, both mailing and house, summer and winter, and multiple phone numbers. It is a daunting task. Parishioners could help by remembering to update St. John's with new information.

At one point Father Sellery became stuck to the floor; that's one way to keep him commented several voices.

On this note Lillie Mikesell made the motion to adjourn at 12:40. The motion was seconded by Patsy Maggio and approved by all.

Respectfully Submitted, Garrett Richardson, Clerk