

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin, Florida

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting October 24, 2018

Members Present: Pastor Becky Robbins-Penniman, Diane Niford, Sandy Kneen, Jerry Mullinax, Cheryl Sharpe, Joe Nixon, Dan Depies, Jim Ratcliff, Bill Blizzard, Dave Dube, Pat Cates (clerk).

Members Absent: Deacon Cindy Roehl

I. Call to Order, Introductions and Opening Devotions

- The meeting was called to order by Pastor Becky Robbins-Penniman at 6:30PM.
- The opening devotion was given by Bill Blizzard

II. Spiritual Journey

- Sandy Kneen gave her spiritual journey.

III. Information

A. Mark Your Calendars

- **October 24:** Vestry Meeting @ 6:30PM
- **October 27:** Spaghetti Dinner for Dunedin Cares
- **November 1:** New Member Colloquium @ 6:00PM
- **November 4:** Feast of All Saints: New Member Welcome & Baptisms, Rod and Staff Society Honorees
- **November 4:** New Member Social at Blizzards' @ 4:00PM
- **November 15:** Community Thanksgiving Service @ 6:30PM, First United Methodist Church of Dunedin
- **November 22:** Community Thanksgiving Dinner @ Good Shepherd
- **November 28:** Vestry Meeting @ 6:30PM
- **December 16:** Bishop Smith Visitation
- **December 16:** Carol Sing with Bells of Hope @ 4:00PM
- **January 27, 2019:** 4th United Faiths Walk of Peace @ 2:00PM
- **February 10, 2019:** Annual Meeting with Celebrating our Blessings Grand Finale @ 12:00PM

B. Financial Report

- Handouts #1A and #1B were received as information.
- Joe Nixon has gotten several budget requests and is waiting on additional requests to be submitted.
- The Budget Team is Cheryl Sharpe, Diane Niford, Marilyn Nalewejak, and Joe
- The Team will hold a meeting on November 1, 2018.

IV. Decision

A. Consent Items

- September 26, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes
- Fundraising Request: Bells of Hope Carol Sing December 16th
- Motion to accept by Sandy Kneen; seconded by Diane Niford
- Approved.

V. Discussion

A. Stewardship Team and Program

- Parishioners have been asking if there is going to be a formal stewardship program this year.
- The contributions generated by past stewardship programs have remained fairly consistent.
- Pastor Becky gave background information on campaigns used in the past including “Year Round Stewardship”.
- In 2017 a letter was sent to the parishioners that included a “Step Up” chart and an Estimate of Giving Card.
- There was a lengthy discussion on ideas related to stewardship.
- Joe Nixon reported that the number of Estimate of Giving Cards and contributions have generally remained consistent: 79 to 89 pledges for a total of \$170K.
- It was noted that less people are pledging now as opposed to five years ago. Money is being contributed, but there is less enthusiasm to complete an Estimate of Giving Card.
- A question was raised about the “Step Up” chart and whether it had an effect on giving.
- Joe noted that only Jan Cote can answer that question.
- It was consensus that a stewardship letter be sent to the parishioners.
- The letter will include a personal note from Pastor Becky.
- Becky, Cheryl Sharpe and Sandy Kneen will discuss the letter further at the next Warden’s meeting.

B. Invite, Welcome, Connect

- Pastor Becky is concerned with connecting with parishioners and keeping track of them so that they are not lost as members.
- She noted that the Invite, Welcome, Connect program by Mary Parmer is one that works and suggested that it be implemented at the parish.
- Several Vestry members have been reading the book and noted that this program can dovetail with RenewalWorks.
- There was a lengthy discussion on this topic.
- It was noted that not only the Vestry but the entire parish should involved with connecting with the members.

- The information which is gleaned from prospective members at the New Member Collegiums is a good step one but a step two is needed.
- Becky noted that Parmer's book addresses the step two.
- The Vestry cannot be expected to implement this program on their own, additional members are needed.
- A number of parish members were suggested to become part of a team to address this issue.
- The Wardens will continue discussions of this topic in their meeting.

C. Convention Workshop Reports

- Several reports have been received.
- Other reports are forthcoming.

D. Recruiting for 2019-2020

- Three delegates to the Convention will need to be elected.
- Three Vestry members will need to be elected.
- Sandy Kneen, Jerry Mullinax and Dave Dube will be rotating off the Vestry.
- Pastor Becky asked to Vestry to be thinking of persons to fill these vacancies.

VI. Planning

A. New Website Roll Out

- Bill Blizzard reported that the new website will be launched on November 1st.
- The new website will be advertised in the Tampa Bay Magazine and the five local monthly newspapers
- Bill handed out an example of a business card advertising the new website.
- These cards can be given out to visitors, put on the welcome table, thrift shops, etc.
- Bill would like to have more of these cards printed and a general discussion followed.
- It was consensus to distribute these cards and see what changes will need to be made before reprinting.
- Bill also noted that an email blast advertising the new website will be sent.

B. New Member Social: November 4th at Blizzards'

- The New Member Social is scheduled for November 4th at the home of Pat and Bill Blizzard.
- Each Vestry member is asked to bring a dish to share.
- There was a lengthy discussion on the list of persons to be invited.

- It was noted of the importance of inviting every new member from the last few months who has not previously attended a social.
- The invitations need to be sent as soon as possible.
- Becky will get a list of prospective attendees and forward to Cheryl Sharpe.

C. Sabbatical Review and Travelogue?

- Pastor Becky has given a presentation on her Sabbatical and asked the Vestry if it were necessary to provide a longer one.
- It was noted by several members that her previous presentation had been well received.
- There was concern expressed that the parish “snowbirds” have not had the opportunity to hear the presentation.
- Becky asked that the Vestry be aware of any parishioners that are interested in a longer presentation and forward this information to her.

D. Annual Meeting and Celebrating Our Blessings Grand Celebration

February 10, 2019

- Pastor Becky encouraged the Vestry to be planning for this event.
- There was a general discussion of suggestions for the meeting.
- It was consensus to ask Judy Warner to prepare another video.

E. RenewalWorks: January 2019

- RenewalWorks is part of the Vestry goal to increase spirituality.
- It will begin with a spiritual life journey, and where the parish is now.
- The goal is to reach 70% of the congregation.
- During the course of the program two questions will be studied: (1) How can we move forward in changing times and (2) What are we called to do and be?
- The results will be linked to the Parish Profile
- There was a question concerning costs, and it was noted that \$500 has been invested in the program, and there will be additional minor costs.
- The committee will meet on November 8th.

F. Vestry Planning

- Choose dates for Organizational Meeting, Orientation, and Vestry Retreat.
- After a brief discussion it was consensus to hold the Organization Meeting at 6:30PM on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 with the Orientation to be that same evening at 7:00PM.
- The Vestry Retreat will be Friday and Saturday, March 8 and 9, 2019.

VI. Closing Devotions

- The closing devotion was given by Bill Blizzard

VII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Pat Cates
Clerk